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Inside:

Election on again, off again	See Page 5
Yushchenko sacks another judge	See Page 5
Yushchenko wants UPA recognized	See Page 5
Pedagogical delegation visits	See Page 8
UCC launches internship program	See Page 9
URDC celebrates 20 years	See Page 11
Toronto festival changes locale	See Page 13
Ukraine dead last	See Page 14
Pipeline deal signed	See Page 15
Ukrainian CEO awarded	See Page 16

Canada-Alberta Immigration Agreement signed

PHOTO — SUPPLIED

Alberta Premier Ed Stelmach (left), Employment, Immigration and Industry Minister Iris Evans (centre) and federal Citizenship and Immigration Canada Minister Diane Finley (left) have a laugh during the signing of the Canada Alberta Cooperation on Immigration Agreement, May 11 in Calgary. The two children in the picture are Isaac Bakunda and Ray Cra.

Ottawa deal opens the door for Ukraine agreement

(UkrNews)—Alberta Premier Ed Stelmach, federal Minister of Citizenship and Immigration Diane Finley, and Alberta Minister of Employment, Immigration and Industry Iris Evans, signed a new Agreement for Canada-Alberta Cooperation on Immigration in Calgary, May 11.

This should open the door for a separate agreement between Alberta and Ukraine as Stelmach told Ukrainian News, March 19, he intends to sign such an agreement once the deal with Ottawa in place (see Ukrainian News, March 21 – April3, 2007).

"This agreement fulfils my commitment to pursue a made-in-Alberta approach to immigration," said Premier Stelmach. "It sets out a framework for enhanced federal-provincial immigration cooperation and partnerships, and is a prime example of what can be accomplished by working together."

"Canada's New Government is committed to working with Alberta and committed to helping newcomers," said Finley. "This agreement will help Alberta attract immigrants more quickly and ensure our immigration programs meet Alberta's needs and the needs of newcomers."

"Since Alberta represents 10 per cent of Canada's population, Alberta's goal is to receive at least 10 per cent of immigrants to Canada," said Evans. "This agreement takes us one step closer to that goal as well as addressing our labour shortage."

The new agreement means:

• Alberta will be able to nominate more immigrants possessing skills needed in the province, for quicker processing by the federal government. Stelmach has indicated he wants to target Ukraine as one of the countries which will provide such immigrants.

The Provincial Nominee Program (PNP) allows provinces and territories to nominate immigrants who have specific skills that will contribute to the local economy. Under its current PNP agreement, Alberta nominates candidates who want to work and live in that province. Nominees must meet federal admissibility requirements, such as those related to health, criminality and security.

Under the new agreement, there is no longer a limit on the number of immigrants the province can nominate for permanent residence in Alberta each year. And, there is no expiry date. The PNP under the new agreement will run indefinitely, with the province providing targets for CIC to incorporate in its annual immigration levels planning.

• A new pilot project to speed up the entry of certain foreign health-care professionals who have applied to come to Alberta will be set up. Under this project, Canada will search the existing inventory of federal skilled

Cont. on P. 3

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Ukraine's Foreign Minister visits Canada

PHOTO — SUPPLIED BY UCC

Ukrainian Foreign Minister Arseniy Yatsenyuk (centre) accompanied by Ukrainian Ambassador Ihor Ostash meets with Prime Minister Stephen Harper in Ottawa.

Harper, Yatsenyuk agree to intensify relations

McKay announces C$5 mln for airport security systems during Ukrainian Foreign Minister's visit

Compiled by Marco Levytsky

With files from: The Foreign Ministry of Ukraine; The Ukrainian Canadian Congress; Canada's Foreign Affairs Media Relations Office; Office of Peter Goldring, MP; Office of Joy Smith, MP; Office of Borys Wrzesnewskyj, MP.

Ukraine's Foreign Minister Arseniy Yatsenyuk stressed the need for intensified bilateral cooperation during his visit with Canada's Prime Minister Stephen Harper in Ottawa, May 7.

He also noted the importance of ensuring an ongoing dialogue between Canada and Ukraine. To that end, both Harper and

Cont. on P. 3

PHOTO — EMBASSY OF UKRAINE

Foreign Minister Arseniy Yatsenyk and Ambassador Ihor Ostash with members of Toronto's Ukrainian community in front of the Lesia Ukrayinka monument in High Park. For more about Yatsenyuk's meetings with the Ukrainian Canadian community see the Ukrainian language story on Page 12.

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Нехай Ласкавий Господь помяне їх у Царстві Своїм.

†

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A requiem for the deceased benefactors of UCEF will take place in Oakville, Ontario and in Lviv, Ukraine.

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СБУ перевіряє, чи загрожує небезпека Тимошенко і Луценку

(Українська правда)—Служба безпеки перевіряє інформацію щодо загрози життю низці політичних діячів.

Про це йдеться у повідомленні прес-служби СБУ. "У зв'язку з повідомленнями у ЗМІ про наявність інформації щодо можливої підготовки замахів на життя окремих державних діячів Службою безпеки організовано та вживається комплекс передбачених законом заходів", - зазначається в повідомленні.

Починаючи з 11 травня здійснюється опитування громадян, які можуть володіти значущою інформацією, направлено запити до правоохоронних органів та спецслужб України та інших держав, вже отримані матеріали, які в установленому законодавством порядку опрацьовуються, негайно посилено безпеку осіб, що охороняються.

Також Службою постійно здійснюються оперативно-розшукові заходи для протидії особливо небезпечним суспільним злочинам, що, зокрема, дозволило своєчасно виявити прибуття в Україну та затримати міжнародного кримінального злочинця Д., вихідця з Кавказького регіону.

У даний час спільно з органами МВС України вирішується питання щодо його екстрадиції.

Служба безпеки України використовує увесь передбачений законодавством арсенал сил та засобів.

Крім того, на нараді 14 травня керівників правоохоронних органів у Генпрокуратурі домовлено, що отримані в ході перевірки Службою безпеки матеріали будуть спільно оцінені фахівцями Генпрокуратури, МВС та СБУ для подальшого прийняття процесуальних рішень.

"Правиця" ще поговорить з "Нашою Україною" та Луценком про мегаблок

(Українська правда)—Блок "Рух – Українська правиця" продовжить переговори про створення широкого блоку націонал-демократичних сил з Народним союзом "Наша Україна" і блоком "Народна самооборона Юрія Луценка".

Таке рішення ухвалили делегати міжпартійного з'їзду блоку 14 травня, повідомляє газета "Комерсант-Україна".

"На відміну від "Народної самооборони Юрія Луценка", наш блок поки не проводить активної передвиборчої роботи. Це негативно впливає на хід переговорного процесу про створення широкого блоку у форматі "Наша Україна", "Правиця", "Народна самооборона". Наші партії провели з'їзд і забули, що на носі вибори", - заявив лідер УНП Юрій Костенко.

"У сьогоднішньому форматі "Правиця" виглядає обрізаною й неповноцінною. У зв'язку з цим виникає питання: а чи зможе вона досягти результату на виборах?" - заявив заступник голови УНП Михайло Ратушний.

На думку члена УНП Василя Червонія, "з партією "Свобода" "Правиця" може йти на вибори самостійно, без "Нашої України".

Делегати з'їзду все-таки доручили керівництву блоку продовжити переговори з НСНУ і "Народною самообороною", однак між учасниками мегаблоку є багато неузгоджених питань.

"По-перше, ми виступаємо проти пропозиції "Нашої України" назвати блок "Наша Україна". Учора нами була запропонована нова назва – "Блок Ющенка".

По-друге, "Наша Україна" наполягає, щоб в угоді було записано, що нашою метою є створення єдиної партії", - сказав лідер НРУ Борис Тарасюк.

"Теоретично НСНУ можна розглядати як суб'єкт для об'єднання, тільки з однієї точки зору – повернути з цієї партії націонал-демократів, що там заблукали. Простити їм все, але за умови, що не вони нас повинні асимілювати, а ми їх", - заявив у свою чергу лідер УРП "Собор" Анатолій Матвієнко.

Говорячи про хід переговорів із НСНУ і "Самообороною", Тарасюк заявив, що питання квот у майбутньому блоці "найбільш легке".

"Ми наполягаємо на 30% у майбутньому блоці, тоді як "Наша Україна" на початку хотіла 70%, а потім погодилася на 50 для себе і 10 – для президента", - повідомив делегатам лідер НРУ, додавши, що 20% списку передбачається віддати Юрію Луценку.

У той же час, за інформацією видання, не одержавши ще необхідних 30% у майбутньому мегаблоці, Костенко й Тарасюк уже вимагають від Матвієнка переглянути раніше досягнуті домовленості. Тепер вони вважають, що з 30% у майбутньому блоці УНП і НРУ повинні одержати по 14% і УРП "Собор" – 2%.

Крім того, один з учасників переговорів зі створення мегаблоку повідомив "Комерсанту", що відсотки, одержувані партіями в блоці, пропорційно дорівнюють внеску цих партій у загальну касу виборчої кампанії.

За словами джерела, за підрахунками лідерів "Правиці", на вибори їм доведеться витратити від $30 млн. до $40 млн. Оскільки такою сумою в повному обсязі учасники блоку не володіють, передбачається, що за певний внесок у розмірі $2-3 млн., у список можуть бути включено декілька бізнесменів.

Ющенко вимагає звільнити суддю, який воскресив Станік

(Українська правда)—Секретаріат президента звернувся до голови Вищої ради юстиції з проханням звільнити за порушення присяги суддю Кіровського районного суду Донецька, який визнав протиправними дії президента зі звільнення суддів Конституційного суду.

Про це в інтерв'ю "Інтерфакс-Україна" заявив заступник голови секретаріату Ігор Пукшин.

"Ми звернулися за дорученням президента до голови Вищої ради юстиції з проханням здійснити перевірку і звільнити (суддю Кіровського районного суду Донецька) за порушення присяги", сказав він.

Він також повідомив, що секретаріат за дорученням президента звернувся до генерального прокурора з вимогою порушити кримінальну справу щодо цього судді, оскільки у винесенні ухвали "вбачаються ознаки злочину".

За словами Пукшина, суддя виніс "свідомо неправосудне рішення", призупинивши дію указів президента про звільнення двох суддів КС.

Зокрема, Пукшин підкреслив, що позивач Олександр Зац є депутатом (Партія регіонів), і його права цими указами президента не були порушені.

Крім того, суддя призупинив дію указів безпідставно, оскільки указ не є предметом позову.

За словами Пукшина, це "грубе порушення", яке вчинив суддя.

Він підкреслив, що секретаріат президента також подав клопотання про передачу розгляду справи до Печерського суду Києва, оскільки позов був поданий "з порушенням правил підсудності". Раніше Кіровський райсуд виніс ухвалу за позовом депутата з фракції Партії регіонів Олександра Заца про визнання протиправними дій президента зі звільнення двох суддів Конституційного суду Валерія Пшеничного і Сюзанни Станік.

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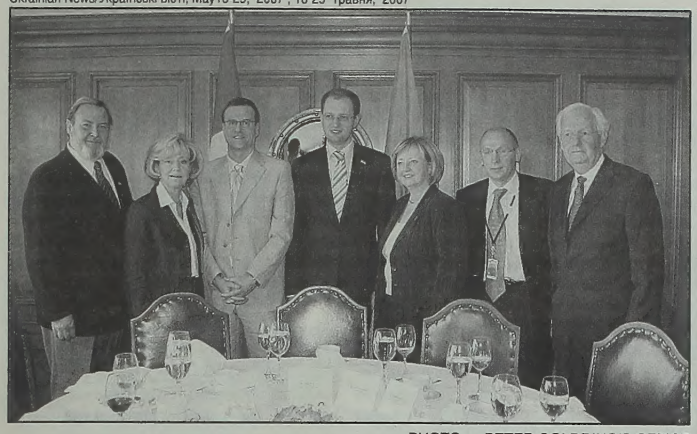

PHOTO — PETER GOLDRING'S OFFICE

Luncheon with the Canada-Ukraine Parliamentary Friendship Group. Left to Right: Peter Goldring, Sen. Raynell Andreychuk, Borys Wrzesnewskyj, Arseniy Yatsenyuk, Joy Smith, Ihor Ostash, and Sen. Terry Stratton, Senator.

PHOTO — BORYS WRZESNEWSKYJ'S OFFICE

Left to Right: M.P. Bryon Wilfert, Ambassador Ihor Ostash, Foreign Minister Arseniy Yatsenyuk, Official Opposition Leader Stéphane Dion, M.P. Ujjal Dosanjh, and M.P. Borys Wrzesnewskyj.

Ukraine's Foreign Minister visits Canada

Cont. from P. 1

Yatsenyuk agreed to begin preparation for reciprocal visits by the heads of state and government of both countries.

As well, they also agreed to look at ways to improve bilateral trade, which in 2006 stood at US$313 million, a figure both agreed does not reflect actual potential.

Among issues discussed were: increasing Canadian investment in Ukraine, initiating joint projects in the energy sector, implementing technical assistance programs and participation of both countries in peacekeeping operations.

Harper noted the important contribution made by the Ukrainian Canadian community towards the socio-economic development of Canada. Yatsenyuk agreed, stating that Ukrainian Canadians could serve as examples of a civically involved citizenry for Ukrainians not only in Ukraine but in all parts of the world.

During the Ottawa portion of his visit, Yatsenyuk also met with the Speaker of the House of Commons, Peter Milliken; Canada's Minister of Foreign Affairs, Peter MacKay; the Minister Responsible for the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA), Josée Verner; the Minister of International Trade, David Emerson; the Secretary of State for Multiculturalism, Jason Kenney; the Minister of National Defence, Gordon O'Conner; the Leader of the Opposition, Stéphane Dion and the executive of the Canada Ukraine Parliamentary Friendship Group.

In his talks with MacKay, Yatsenyuk discussed a range of issues including cooperation in international organizations, student and academic exchanges and Ukraine's accession to the World Trade Organization.

Following the meeting, MacKay announced a contribution of $5 million to upgrade security systems at airports and other border crossings in Ukraine to prevent nuclear terrorism.

"We are pleased to be working together with Ukraine on this endeavour," said Minister MacKay. "To prevent nuclear terrorism, it is essential to upgrade security systems and address the legacy of risks left in countries of the former Soviet Union. The last opportunity to detect and deter the movement of these materials is often at international borders."

This contribution is part of Canada's commitment to the Global Partnership against the Spread of Weapons and Materials of Mass Destruction, launched by the G8 in 2002 under Canada's leadership. The Global Partnership addresses a number of non-proliferation, disarmament, counterterrorism and nuclear security issues, initially in Russia, Ukraine and other countries of the former Soviet Union.

PHOTO — EMBASSY OF UKRAINE

Ministers MacKay and Yatsenyuk talk with reporters.

At CIDA, the ministers spoke about projects involving the reformation of Ukraine's diplomatic service, reforming government administration, encouraging civic society while developing local self-government capacities and rural development.

Special attention during the meetings was given to launching of new CIDA projects in Ukraine, particularly those that facilitate reforming of public administration and diplomatic service, strengthening of civil society, development of local self-governance and rural areas.

At the meeting with O'Connor, the parties discussed the issues of Ukraine's and Canada's participation in peacekeeping operations, implementation of projects in the sphere of military education and cooperation, on the market of strategic transport aviation, as well as some aspects of the preparation of the visit of Ukrainian Defense Minister Anatoliy Hrytsenko to Canada.

Yatsenyuk also presented the Speaker of the House of Commons with a letter from President Viktor Yushchenko asking for support of Ukraine's campaign to have the Holodomor Famine of 1932-33 in Ukraine recognized internationally as an act of genocide against the Ukrainian nation.

At the luncheon with the executive of the Canada-Ukraine Parliamentary Friendship Group, the topics of discussion included: energy needs, international adoption, Ukraine's interest in becoming a member of the World Trade Organisation, Canada-Ukraine economic cooperation and democratic reform.

"It is a pleasure to have the opportunity to welcome Minister Yatsenyuk to Canada and to continue the development of the good will and bond between Ukraine and Canada," said Edmonton-East MP, Peter Goldring, Chair of the Group, made up of over 140 parliamentarians and senators. "As someone who has travelled to Ukraine and participated in their electoral successes, I am pleased with the support the Canadian government has shown for this emerging democracy."

Vice-Chair Joy Smith MP for Kildonan–St. Paul raised the issue of human trafficking.

"Canada has always had an active relationship with Ukraine and Ukrainians, and we have consistently been a strong supporter of Ukrainian independence," said Smith. "Canada is also taking steps to combat human trafficking and I am most pleased to know that the Foreign Minister is committed to taking serious measures to fight this ongoing injustice of human trafficking within Ukraine."

Smith was later joined by Irene Sushko, President of the Ukrainian Canadian Congress, at an evening reception with the Ukrainian Foreign Affairs Minister.

Vice-Chair Borys Wrzesnewskyj, MP for Etobicoke-Centre, characterized the meeting as "upbeat."

He raised four major issues, which were:

• The previous Liberal government named Ukraine one of 25 donor recipients for CIDA aid projects. This commitment continues and provides tremendous project opportunities. Yatsenyuk expressed his thanks for Canada's support and shared a number of ideas as to the types of projects CIDA could fund related to civil society building;

• Wrzesnewskyj underscored the importance of discussions for a bilateral free trade agreement between Canada and Ukraine (similar to current agreements with Costa Rica and Israel) so that in the future Canada can be a gateway for Ukrainian small and medium-size enterprises (SMEs) to the Americas and Ukraine can be a gateway for Canadian SMEs to the European market. Yatsenyuk revealed his interest in this concept and suggested a study should be undertaken to make sure both countries would benefit.

• Canada has an ongoing project that brings Ukrainian military officers to our country for English language training. Wrzesnewskyj recommended the expansion of the project to include advanced military training for senior Ukrainian officers, including generals. Yatsenyuk suggested this would fit well with an expanding Ukrainian international peacekeeping role.

• Ukraine's lack of self-sufficiency in the energy sector and its geopolitical consequences was also discussed. Wrzesnewskyj suggested that consideration be given to the adoption of CANDU nuclear energy technology. Ukraine is rich in uranium and CANDU technology does not require the enrichment of uranium unlike the existing technology which necessitates uranium enrichment in Russia. Yatsenyuk expressed his interest in analysing this technology further.

Following the luncheon, Yatsenyuk, accompanied by Ostash, met with Dion, Liberal House Leader Ralph Goodale, Foreign Affairs Critic Ujjal Dosanjh, Citizenship and Immigration Critic Omar Alghabra, Chair of the Liberal Caucus on Canada and the World Bryon Wilfert, Co-Chair of the Liberal Caucus on Canada and the World Dr. Keith Martin, and Vice-Chair of the Citizenship and Immigration Committee Andrew Telegdi.

During his meetings with Canadian officials, Yatsenyuk encouraged Canada to send observers to monitor the upcoming Ukrainian parliamentary elections.

The Chair of the Canada Ukraine Committee of the Ukrainian Canadian Congress, Jars Balan, offered the following observations about the visit:

"The UCC is pleased that our federal government has provided Minister Yatsenyuk with access to the Prime Minister and senior members of cabinet. The topics discussed reflect closely the issues that UCC has raised with the government on many occasions. Canadian aid targeted at helping Ukraine reform its governance structures and at fostering civic society have proven successful in the past and remain important for Ukraine's future development. Increased trade will boost Canada's economy and assist Ukraine in diversifying its trading relationships worldwide. UCC is especially interested in the area of increased exchange opportunities with Ukraine. People-to-people public diplomacy is vital in ensuring that the highly respected Canadian values of tolerance and cooperation are exported into the world. Simultaneously, Canadians receive an education in the rich heritage and cultural legacy of Ukraine while learning from Ukrainian models in science, technology and agriculture. It should also be noted that the community is on record as being committed to working with the government of Ukraine on the issue of international recognition for the Holodomor-Famine of 1932-33 as genocide."

Imigration agreement signed

Cont. from P. 1

worker applicants, and identify specific health-care professionals destined for Alberta. Candidates in the inventory who have already received preliminary approval of their application would be referred to the appropriate licensing bodies in Alberta to begin the process of foreign credential recognition. Candidates who have not yet received preliminary approval of their application would be referred to the province of Alberta for consideration under the Provincial Nominee Program, where they would benefit from faster processing.

• Cooperation between Canada and Alberta in overseas immigration marketing initiatives will be enhanced. Stelmach has stated he want to open up "storefront offices" for Alberta in Ukraine.

• Mechanisms that would make it easier and quicker for Alberta to get the foreign workers it needs to meet its growing labour force demands will be established.

The agreement formalizes and builds on the existing collaborative relationship between Canada and Alberta on immigration matters, including the delivery of settlement and integration services. It also recognizes the importance of involving community stakeholders, including service providers, municipalities and the private sector, in welcoming newcomers.

It also confirms the Government of Canada's commitment to fair and ongoing funding for settlement services in Alberta. Canada has also committed to working with Alberta to help immigrants find work in their chosen professions.

«Кислотні» Жовті Води

Юлія Рацибарська, *Радіо Свобода*

11 травня на Дніпропетровщині сталася техногенна аварія. Через витік кислотних парів в одному з цехів гідрометалургійного заводу «Східний гірничо-збагачувальний комбінат» потерпіло 5 сіл сусіднього району. Інформація про причини і наслідки надзвичайної події – суперечливі.

5 сіл П'ятихатського району з населенням понад тисячу осіб накрила хмара парів сірчаної кислоти з жовтоводського гідрометалургійного заводу. Люди кажуть, що бачили, як кислотний туман стелився полями. Відразу ж відчули неприємний присмак у роті і головний біль. Про аварію дізналися за годину з повідомлень місцевого радіо. Передали — надвір не виходити, кватирки позачиняти.

Пенсіонер пан Григорій із села Богдано-Надеждівка — очевидець цих подій: «Пара така була над селом кислотна, дуже неприємно пахло, майже кислота. Людям повідомили, скотину з пасовища забрали. Тут чергує група лікарів із Дніпропетровська і нашого району. Хто себе погано почуває, виїздять. Ніби все в порядку. Себе почуваю непогано. На мене воно не діє. Дружина — гірше, тиск. Тут була група лікарів, виписали трохи ліків».

Р.С. Скажіть, будь ласка, а Ви не боїтеся виходити на вулицю?

«Виходжу. І люди виходять. Сьогодні вже пустили корів пасти. Поки не страшно. І сказали нам, що не дуже бійтеся. Після попередження стали більше панікувати, ніж до попередження».

За даними медиків, зі скаргами на погіршення самопочуття до них звернулося понад 50 осіб, не шпиталізували жодного. У половини, кажуть, взагалі не було жодних отруєнь, просто загострились хронічні хвороби. Решті — призначили амбулаторне лікування, порадили профілактичні засоби, розповіла місцева фельдшерка Світлана Ковалець: «Рекомендуємо полоскання розтової порожнини розчином соди і споживання якомога більшої кількості води, в основному мінеральної».

Між тим люди продовжують пити воду з криниць і використовувати її для приготування їжі. В МНС кажуть, вода цілком безпечна, отруєння стосувалося тільки повітря, та й то наразі вітер розніс небезпечну речовину, і рівень її концентрації, за даними П'ятихатської санстанції, в атмосфері цілком допустимий.

Ця інформація не збігається з тим, що кажуть у П'ятихатському МНС — висновку санітарних лікарів ще немає, бо його готують не місцеві, а жовтоводські фахівці. Начальник районного відділу МНС Василь Воробйов сказав Радіо Свобода: «Висновку санстанції у нас ще немає. Ми практично ще не знаємо, яка була концентрація. Вони не в зоні зараження. Кислотний завод розташований у Жовтих Водах. Це стосувалося тільки повітря. Там сьогодні уже все працює».

Керівництво гідрометалургійного заводу брати на себе відповідальність поки не поспішає — напередодні дирекція заявила, що жодного викиду взагалі не було. Між тим прокуратура вважає винним все-таки це підприємство і порушила кримінальну справу.

Заступник прокурора області Олег Ричка каже, що відходи сірчаного виробництва потрапили в повітря через порушення правил безпеки під час заміни фільтрів: «Необхідно було призупинити виробництво, а виробництво не було призупинене. У результаті під час заміни фільтрів стався викид».

14 травня у 5-ти селах відновили роботу садочків та шкіл. Медики вкотре оглядають людей, які скаржились на самопочуття. А в обласній держадміністрації намагаються досягти порозуміння з керівництвом підприємства, щоб більше слідкувало за безпекою свого виробництва.

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Вступ - добровільні пожертви

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Прокуратура взялася за інцидент, що стався з Катериною Ющенко в Криму

Володимир Притула, *Радіо Свобода*

Сімферополь, 11 травня 2007 — Прокуратура Криму відновила розслідування інциденту, що нещодавно стався з Катериною Ющенко в автономії. Перебуваючи днями в Криму, де вона брала участь у гуманітарних акціях, дружина Президента України зазнала обструкції з боку активістів Компартії.

Прокурор Криму Віктор Шемчук доручив провести додаткову перевірку інцидентів, що сталися наприкінці квітня — на початку травня в «Артеку», Сімферополі і селі Лозове Сімферопольського району, коли туди прийжджала дружина Президента України з гуманітарною місією.

Тоді комуністи влаштували пікети, що переросли у безлад: вони ображали Катерину Ющенко, кидалися на її охорону та автомобіль, перекривали дорогу на її шляху до шкіл в «Артеку», Сімферополі і Лозовому.

Віктор Шемчук в інтерв'ю Радіо Свобода назвав такі дії хуліганством. За ці дії особи, які винні у цьому, чи організатори цих акцій мають зазнати якогось покарання, вважає прокурор: «Не можна довкола візиту дружини Президента, яка приїхала з гуманітарною місією, створювати політичні ігрища».

Із цього приводу до прокуратури надійшло звернення народного депутата Володимира Шкляра, і прокуратура передала до кримського главку МВС України для всебічного розслідування.

Прокурор Криму обіцяє, що за результатами розслідування обов'язково вживуть належних заходів і повідомлять про них громадськість.

Із одним із лідерів кримської організації «Нашої України» Володимиром Шклярем Радіо Свобода зв'язатися не вдалося, але у кримському штабі цієї партії дії комуністів назвали «дикунськими і провокаційними». Тим часом у «варварстві і провокаторстві» місцеві комуністи звинувачують керівництво Міжнародного дитячого центру «Артек», що підпорядкований Державному управлінню справами Президента України.

За словами 2-го секретаря Кримського рескому КПУ Юрія Аксютіна, акції протесту комуністів спровокував демонтаж макетів радянських орденів на стелі при в'їзді до «Артеку». Протестуючи проти цього, прихильники Компартії блокували приїзд Катерини Ющенко до дитячого табору, до української гімназії в Сімферополі і школи-інтернату в Лозовому.

Юрій Аксютін стверджує, що їхні дії були «в межах закону», і вважає, що реакція кримської прокуратури — це відповідь на вказівку з Києва: «Так би мовити, провести певну профілактику, створити на майбутнє певну загрозу комуністам, які проводять на цілком законних підставах ці акції».

Представник Компартії також заявив, що подібні виступи проти демонтажу радянської символіки в «Артеку» комуністи продовжать.

А 10 травня директор дитячого центру Борис Новожилов повідомив, що в ніч на 8 травня кілька зловмисників облили фарбою центральну стелу «Артеку» і розбили логотип ЮНЕСКО, розташований на ній.

Водночас, як стало відомо, організатор акцій проти Катерини Ющенко комуніст Сергій Нікулін виїхав за межі Криму і зараз перебуває у Москві.

Що стоїть на заваді примиренню вояків радянської армії та УПА?

Тетяна Ярмощук, *Радіо Свобода*

9 травня. Державне свято, яке відкриває незагоєну рану: що стоїть на заваді примиренню вояків радянської та Української повстанської армій? Чи реальне таке примирення зараз, а чи їх примирять уже прийдешні покоління?

Президент Віктор Ющенко, вже традиційно 9 травня висловлює сподівання, що держава визнає усіх, хто боровся за Україну на початку 20 століття.

"Прийшов час щиро і по-братерському сказати один одному – кожен, хто боровся за Україну, заслуговує на вічну повагу й подяку. Вірю, що робота, яка повинна врегулювати законодавчий статус усіх, хто в 20-30-40-50-их роках боровся за Україну і її незалежність, нарешті буде завершена, буде втілена. Як правда. Як історична справедливість" , – наголосив Віктор Ющенко.

Тож хто чи що заважає сьогодні примиренню радянських вояків та вояків УПА? Голова Інституту національної пам'яті Ігор Юхновський в інтерв'ю Радіо Свобода зазначив: "Якби менше говорили про це порозуміння, то воно б уже давно наступило. Слід розуміти, що Україна була роздерта різноманітними державами-окупантами. Кожна держава мобілізувала людей у свої армії і нічого дивного, що протягом довгої історії українці воювали брат проти брата".

Сьогодні на заваді примиренню передусім стоїть політика, зауважив в інтерв'ю Радіо Свобода історик Олександр Палій:

"Політики штучно загострюють ці конфлікти. Дуже часто проти примирення з вояками УПА виступають ті люди, які ніколи не воювали, або воювали тільки з мирним населенням. Абсолютна більшість людей, які воювали в цій війні давним-давно і зрозуміли, і пробачили один одного".

Люди ж на київських вулицях по-різному ставляться до дати 9 травня, але мотиви пам'яті й скорботи переважають. Людмила Шевченко вважає, що це свято не для пікніка: "Це не свято для пікніка. Треба помянути людей, подякувати за те, що пройшли це пекло. Я завжди плачу у цей день – батька вже немає...".

На думку ж пенсіонерки пані Тамари, Україна має віддати шану всім, хто її визволяв: "Це було велике свято доки я вважала, що Радянський Союз нас визволяв. А з того часу стало відомо більше матеріалів історичних. Тому зараз ми повинні не протиставляти – треба вшановувати також пам'ять вояків УПА, які за незалежність України воювали".

Утім, останні роки святкування 9 травня в Україні стала більш людяним. На зміну гучним парадам та брязкання залізом прийшло зворушливе вшанування пам'яті загиблих у Другій світовій.

Election issue still unresolved

(UkrNews/RFE/RL/Ukrainian Journal)President Viktor Yushchenko and Prime Minister Viktor Yanukovych failed to reach agreement on a date for snap parliamentary elections but an accord is still expected in the near future, a senior official said, as cited by AFP, May 16 when this issue went to press.

The two met for three hours in talks that aides had predicted would result in a concrete date for elections.

Instead, a deal "will be announced after final agreement is reached" in the next three days, the ex-Soviet republic's security council secretary, Ivan Pliyushch, told reporters.

First Deputy Prime Minister Mykola Azarov had earlier suggested that Yanukovych and Yushchenko could agree on the date of early polls at the May 16 meeting.

However, Yanukovych signaled at the cabinet meeting that his decision on early elections will depend on the Constitutional Court's ruling regarding Yushchenko's decrees of April 2 and April 26, in which the president dissolved the Verkhovna Rada and called for early elections.

"We will wait for the decision of the Constitutional Court, but we have preliminarily agreed that, regardless of whether the elections will take place or not, we need to adopt all necessary documents to hold them, thus preparing the legislative groundwork for pre-term polls," Yanukovych said.

He also confirmed media reports from May 15 saying that a district court in Donetsk ruled to suspend Yushchenko's decrees dismissing two Constitutional Court judges, Syuzanna Stanik and Valeriy Pshenichnyy. Yanukovych said Stanik and Pshenichnyy have resumed their work in the Constitutional Court.

Communist Party leader Petro Symonenko told journalists on May 15 that the working group created by Yushchenko and Yanukovych to prepare proposals for early elections has completed its mission, Ukrainian media reported.

According to Symonenko, the group failed to reach a compromise on some issues, and he noted a "serious divergence of positions" on several of them.

In particular, Symonenko mentioned the lack of agreement on introducing amendments to the law on the rights and responsibilities of parliamentary deputies, and compiling a nationwide register of voters.

Presidential Secretariat deputy head Ivan Vasyunyk on May 15 blamed the failure to reach agreement on early polls on the "destructive position" of the Communist Party, which, he said, intended "to disrupt the electoral process from the very beginning."

Vasyunyk added that the draft bills proposed by the working group, "in the form of a coordinated resolution and a list of divergent positions," will be forwarded to Yushchenko and Yanukovych for examination.

Vasyunyk did not rule out the possibility that the Party of Regions, Our Ukraine, and the Yuliya Tymoshenko Bloc could endorse the prepared legislation without approval from the Communists and the Socialists.

May 4 both Yushchenko and Yanukovych said they had agreed to hold early parliamentary elections.

Three days later the deal collapsed after the Communist Party and the Socialist Party, whose support ratings have been hovering in a risk area, voiced opposition to the plan.

"It's clear that a conscious slowdown of the talks has been talking place," Our Ukraine, Yushchenko's party, said in a statement. "It mainly comes from two political groups, the Communist and the Socialist parties.

Yushchenko calls for recognition of UPA

(RFE/RL)—Speaking at a wreath-laying ceremony in Kyiv on May 9 to mark Victory Day, President Yushchenko called for the recognition of Ukrainian Insurgent Army (UPA) veterans as combatants of World War II, Ukrainian media reported.

The UPA, established in 1942 and supported by the Organization of Ukrainian Nationalists (OUN), fought both Soviet and Polish guerrillas as well as German troops in Nazi-occupied Ukraine, pursuing the ideal of an independent Ukraine. UPA fighters also fought against Soviet and Polish troops after the end of World War II.

UPA commander Roman Shukhevych was killed in a skirmish in western Ukraine in 1950, while OUN leader Stepan Bandera was poisoned by a Soviet KGB agent in Germany in 1959.

"The time has come to tell each other in an honest and brotherly manner that everyone who has fought for Ukraine deserves eternal respect and thankfulness. Therefore I believe the endeavour to settle the legal status of those who fought for Ukraine and its independence in 1917-24, 1928-39 and 1941-56 will at last be completed and embodied in life," Interfax-Ukraine quoted Yushchenko as saying on May 9.

Blast damages Russia-EU pipeline in Ukraine

(RFE/RL)—The Ukrainian Emergency Situations Ministry said on May 7 that an explosion earlier the same day destroyed a 30-meter section of the Urengoi-Pomary-Uzhhorod pipeline transporting Russian gas across Ukraine to Europe, Ukrainian and international media reported.

The cause of the explosion, which occurred near the village of Luka in Kyiv Oblast, has yet to be determined.

The damaged pipeline is one of three main pipelines carrying Russian natural gas via Ukraine to the European market, with an estimated capacity of 1 million cubic meters per day.

According to the Ukrainian Emergency Situations Ministry, supplies through the line were interrupted, but the ministry activated a bypass pipeline to continue transporting natural gas.

Officials in the Czech Republic, Hungary, Poland, and Romania have reported normal gas flows following the accident in Ukraine.

The European Commission called on Ukraine on May 8 to upgrade its pipelines.

"A similar accident occurred in the same section of the same pipeline in 2001.... The Commission considered that additional proof that Ukrainian networks — or at least part of the network of pipelines supplying gas to the European Union — need to be overhauled," Reuters quoted Ferran Tarradellas Espuny, a spokesman for Energy Commissioner Andris Piebalgs, as saying.

Yushchenko sacks yet another Constitutional Court judge

(RFE/RL)—President Viktor Yushchenko has signed a decree dismissing Constitutional Court Judge Volodymyr Ivashchenko for a "breach of oath," the presidential press service reported on its website, president.gov.ua, on May 10.

Ivashchenko was appointed to the 18-member panel by former President Leonid Kuchma in 2001.

In early May, Yushchenko sacked two other Constitutional Court judges, Syuzanna Stanik and Valeriy Pshenichnyy, also charging that they violated their oaths.

On May 3, Yushchenko appointed Stepan Havrysh as a Constitutional Court judge tp replace Pshenichnyy. Havrysh previously served on the panel of the Constitutional Court for a short stint from December 2004 to January 2005, having been appointed by former President Leonid Kuchma.

Party of Regions lawmaker Yuriy Myroshnychenko argued on May 3 that the appointment of Havrysh is invalid because the law on the Constitutional Court stipulates that the relevant presidential decree must also be signed by the prime minister and the justice minister, which was not the case.

On May 4 Yushchenko appointed Vasyl Kostytskyy as a Constitutional Court judge to replace Stanik. Kostytskyy, who has a doctorate in law, was a deputy environment minister in 1991-93 and a deputy finance minister in 2004-05.

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Newsbriefs

Three dead in mine blast

(RFE/RL)—The death toll following a methane gas explosion in a Ukrainian coal mine has risen to three. Emergency officials now say the blast killed three miners, one from a heart failure after being rescued, and injured 13. The methane leak occurred about 900 meters beneath the surface of the Krasnolymanska mine in the eastern Donetsk region.

Train sabotage suspected

(Ukrainian Journal)—Three people were injured after a train was derailed near Kyiv late May 2 that may be the first case of sabotage on a railway in the former Soviet Union over the past decade. The train bound to Kyiv from Dnipropetrovsk crashed near Rosava station near Kyiv after unknown persons had apparently tampered with the safety equipment at the railway crossing.

Chornovil warns against violence

(RFE/RL)—Taras Chornovil, a lawmaker of the ruling Party of Regions, said in the Verkhovna Rada on May 15 that a "party of war around the president" has prepared "a number of actions to whip up tensions and initiate very severe provocations" in Ukraine in the hope that the current political crisis will turn violent, the "Ukrayinska pravda" website reported. According to Chornovil, the "party of war" is led by Presidential Secretariat head Viktor Baloha.

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Stelmach delivers on immigration deal

Within five months of taking office, Alberta Premier Ed Stelmach has delivered on one of the key planks of his leadership campaign — negotiating an immigration agreement with the federal government which would allow Alberta a lot more leeway in attracting immigrants to this province.

Under this agreement, Alberta will be able to nominate more immigrants possessing skills needed in the province, for quicker processing by the federal government; speed up the entry of certain foreign health-care professionals who have applied to come to Alberta; enhance its overseas immigration marketing initiatives; and make it easier and quicker for Alberta to get the foreign workers it needs to meet its growing labour force demands.

This agreement is of significant importance to the Ukrainian community in Alberta, as it will have a positive effect on immigration from Ukraine.

For one thing Ukraine has a surplus of workers with precisely those skill levels that Alberta desperately needs. Take the oil and gas industry. One of the best institutes of higher learning for engineers and other technicians in that sector is the Ivano-Frankivs'k National Technical University of Oil and Gas, which produces a number of graduates far in excess of Ukraine's domestic needs. That's because it was Soviet policy to concentrate specializations in one particular corner of the USSR in order to make the republics dependant upon each other. Thus, the Ivano-Frankivsk Institute was never intended to serve the domestic needs of Ukraine itself, but the entire USSR — especially Russia. Most of the graduates now go to the Tiumen fields of Russia. Why not the Alberta oil sands? Another world-renowned centre is the Paton welding institute in Kyiv. On his recent visit to Alberta, Ukraine's former Education Minister Vasil Kremen proposed setting up English-language training programs for such skilled workers in order to make them better qualified to work in Alberta. This was reportedly very well received by Alberta government officials.

Premier Stelmach, whose own grandfather came from the Lviv region, is well aware of this potential and has promised to work out an immigration deal with Ukraine, once the Ottawa one has been signed. Now the task of formulating the details begins.

There are some areas where the federal government could assist considerably. One such area is consular services. Ukraine, Alberta and the Ukrainian Canadian Community have long been asking for an Edmonton-based Consulate of Ukraine for Western Canada — surely a priority considering just under 70% of Canadians of Ukrainian origin live in this region. Putting this in place would also be a feather in the Conservative government's cap considering how long it has been delayed by previous Liberal governments. This could be combined with the opening of a Canadian Consulate in Lviv — the centre of the larger historic region from where the vast majority of Canadians of Ukrainian origin came from, the one with which Canadians have the biggest ties, and the one in which the two oblasts with which Alberta has formal agreements are located.

However, opening up a new consulate in Ukraine would go against the New Government's policy of closing consulates all around the world. Thus, one has to question the wisdom of such a policy in the first place. Considering the budgetary surplus is estimated at $9.5 billion for only the first 10 months of the 2006–07 fiscal year, $2.3 billion was dished out to Quebec on the eve of that province's election, allowing Premier Jean Charest to bestow $700 million in tax cuts just days before the voting, shutting down diplomatic missions to save a mere $142.8 million is, frankly, petty. Canada already has one of the lowest proportions of diplomats serving overseas among G-8 countries and consulates are the face of Canada abroad. While the Liberals did cut consulates in the mid-90s when the deficit had to be brought under control, they reversed that policy when the financial picture improved. Towards the end of their tenure they had planned to increase the number of missions abroad. Perhaps the Tories too should consider reversing their policy.

Fools on the Hill dizzy with Izzy

By Lubomyr Luciuk

Jean said he'd do it. Some even claim Pierre promised to. Paul said he would. And now Stephen may really have gone and done it. Would Izzy be happy? If he were still around I suppose he would. He was good at shell games.

Once upon a time Izzy's clan backed Jean's gang. Nothing is free, of course, so Izzy expected more than a *merci* for his media-manipulating magic. He got a promise — if Jean got his prize, then Izzy's pet, his very own holocaust museum, could suck on the public teat. Alas, Izzy went off to his just reward before squeezing even a drop out of Shawinigan's *petit garcon*. Hopeful, nonetheless, his progeny stuck with their papa's pal, loyal until he was purged. As a spent leader goes quickly dry, they clambered off to court Paul. That didn't last, since a certain Stephen's day was about to dawn. So decamp again they did, without much of a bye-bye, easy enough when your notion of loyalty is akin to how most of us wear a shirt - chuck when soiled.

And, lo and behold, their wandering worked. Just the other day the Asper Foundation, then oh-so-Liberal, now oh-so-Conservative, was promised millions, in perpetuity, to erect Izzy's mausoleum on some Manitoba mud flats. Tactfully, it's called the "Canadian Museum of Human Rights."

What's wrong with that? Won't this be good for Manitoba? That depends on whether you pay taxes. Most of us do. Unfortunately, this project's motto is not "Build it and they will come" but "Erect it, then buy some folks to visit." So millions — *your* tax dollars at work - will, annually, subsidize the *hoi polloi* coming out to Winnipeg, not otherwise a destination high on most tourist lists. Without this welfare, or "operational funding" as the bureaucrats call it, the Asper project could never sustain itself, in part because, frankly, there is no real demand for yet another holocaust museum in North America, nor much genuine support for a facility committed largely to recalling only the horrors that befell one tribe during the Second World War. All this seems to have escaped the attention of this boondoggle's boosters. In fairness, the shills never claimed to care.

Their scheme has always been controversial. Veterans rejected a holocaust gallery in their new Canadian War Museum, which punted Izzy's project from the banks of the Ottawa River to those by the Red. And a coalition of Canadian ethnocultural communities, *Canadians for a Genocide Museum,* has consistently pointed out that the Asper museum would not be inclusive or equitable in its treatment of the many acts of genocide that have befouled human history. To counter that chorus, Canadian Heritage slipped some coins to a lobbyist who cajoled a few of his aboriginal brothers into endorsing the Asper arrangement, a forked tongue tactic if ever there was one.

If our taxes are to underwrite this "national museum" why can't its backers give straight answers to some simple questions? For example, how much of its permanent exhibit space will be given over to Canada's "aboriginal holocaust" and will that theme be afforded more, or less, space than the *Shoah*? And, given their alleged support for this project, how much is the Assembly of First Nations kicking in? Why is a so-called "Canadian Museum of Human Rights" not focused primarily on Canadian issues? Precisely how much of its area will recall those caught up in the Residential Schools, the plight of the Acadians, the injustices of the Chinese Head Tax or what happened to Ukrainians during Canada's first national internment operations? While tragedies like the *Holodomor*, the Great Famine of 1932-1933 in Soviet Ukraine, arguably the greatest act of genocide to occur in 20th century Europe, deserve mention, shouldn't essentially non-Canadian stories be treated elsewhere, in this case in a museum in Ukraine? And since no one but a nut would deny the holocaust, why is more than a quarter of the Asper project's total space dedicated to that horror, already well treated in dozens of centres around North America and, of course, in Israel? If an international dimension is required why not be unique and concentrate on the far less known crimes of communism? The greatest slaughter of humans in the modern period occurred in Red China under Mao Tse Tung, not in Europe under Stalin, or Hitler.

Very few cultural institutions can sustain themselves without some assistance. And in a country as large as Canada it may even make sense to have "national museums" outside Ottawa, provided the government can amend the *Museums Act* to allow for that, and then ensures that management forever rests in the hands of professionals, not partisans. Only strict governance rules can keep such facilities from becoming taxpayer-funded vehicles for the promotion of the pet peeves or prejudices of special interest groups. But some politicians are so intent on sucking up to media moguls that they don't hesitate in throwing your money around, hoping to get themselves serviced. Our fools on the Hill seem adolescently oblivious to a fundamental truth: the fidelity of a courtesan swirls like a skirt in a Calgary Chinook.

Lubomyr Luciuk is a professor and writer who lives in Kingston, Ontario

Yushchenko learns to play the power game

By Wolodymyr Derzko

In the past few weeks, Yushchenko and his democratic allies have shown that they can create the upper hand over the Party of Regions — applying the rules or axioms of power.

One key axiom of power is "Never put too much trust in your friends and learn how to use your enemies. Be wary of your friends — they will betray you more quickly, for they are easily aroused to envy. But hire a former enemy and he will be more loyal than a friend, because he has more to prove." So goes the logic. Yushchenko has learned this lesson after a year of infighting within his inner circle. Now he has hired a professional manager — Victor Baloha to run the Presidential Secretariat. His shrewdest strategic move was to appoint Svyatoslav Piskun as the Prosecutor General for a third time, using a legal trick to re-install him. A local court in Kyiv had suddenly ruled on April 26 that Piskun must be re-appointed. The President quickly accepted the ruling, avoiding the need to go to Parliament for endorsement. Publicly, even Piskun seemed surprised. But this clever move reflects that Yushchenko and Piskun may have coordinated a secret deal. "We made many mistakes and many of our actions and steps were not quite lawful but taken to benefit certain political forces. I believe such things are in the past now and the Office will strictly adhere to the Constitution and laws." said Piskun. He reassured the President that his Office will "play the first violin" in coordinating Ukraine's law enforcement bodies. This was also signaled by Yushchenko on the weekend when he addressed Yanukovych supporters in European Square in Kyiv.

Do not be surprised to see charges against Moroz — the House Speaker and Yanukovych for defying the first presidential decree and against other long-standing political refugees such as the ex-Governor of Sumy Oblast, Vladimir Shcherban, and ex-Head of the State Department on Presidential Affairs, Igor Bakay. Whether they will stick in court is a different matter. But laying charges may be good enough to discredit the Prime Minister and the Speaker in the eyes of loyal Party of Regions and Socialist voters before or during the next election.

The next axiom of power is mastering the art of timing. Here the logic flows as follows: Never seem to be in a hurry — betrays a lack of control over yourself and over time. Yushchenko's announcement of his second decree came when both Moroz and Yanukovych were traveling abroad, catching them both off guard, and allowing for widespread uninterrupted coverage on the evening news before the Party of Regions had time to react.

Another axiom of power is creating opportunity windows for yourself. Under what circumstances will a political situation develop to your advantage? Again Yushchenko can turn to the Russians who are one of the best players at designing political situations that suit their needs and ends.

Remember in 1999, when Boris Yeltsin was toppled and an ex-FSB Director, Vladimir Putin became Russia's new President? Putin gained immediate power and control right after 300 Russians were killed in mysterious Moscow apartment bombings, which the FSB blamed on Chechen "terrorists." In his book Blowing Up Russia, former FSB Agent Alexander Litvinenko, who was recently deliberately poisoned and died in London, detailed how the bombings were a "false red flag operation" orchestrated to provoke a new war in Chechnya. The Yushchenko team needs to go on the offence, designing positive and legal opportunity windows for the democrats and to keep the opposition off-guard and off balance. I suspect these may be in the works for the upcoming elections.

One more axiom of power is to be regal in your own fashion. Act like a king to be treated like one. In the long run, appearing vulgar and common will make people disrespect you. That is how many people are viewing Yanukovych despite his American PR polish. I'm astonished that after all that has happened to Yushchenko (falsified elections, dioxin poisoning and a lack of a prosecution and broken promises), the public civility with which he treats Yanukovych is amazing. This shows the President's true strength of character — a sign of a real political gentleman.

Finally, an axiom of power that Yushchenko must be

Ukraine: A Second Chance

By Oksana Bashuk Hepburn

As the first anniversary of the squandered March parliamentary election was drawing near in Ukraine, the chief concern of the Orange opposition focused on the *aggrandizement* of power by Prime Minister Victor Yanukovych to whom their former hero, President Victor Yushchenko, had handed the reins of power. By calling a snap election President Yushchenko aimed to reverse the trend. By getting the Prime Minister's agreement, following a stormy fight, the President scores a political victory.

Regardless of outcome — it looks like the elections will take place post June — the call puts the President in the most favourable light with Ukraine's pro-West Orange population since starting his presidential watch. He is showing leadership, placing himself firmly in the Orange camp, rallying supporters, reconfirming pro-West positions, and challenging the Party of Region's pro-Russia government.

It remains to be seen whether this is enough to help the Orange forces win. Current rankings in the polls are lower than those of the Prime Minister's party. Then there's always the issue of a fair election. However, they have succeeded before by winning with slight majorities both at the presidential elections of 2004 and the parliamentary in 2006. They have proven that the people want Orange power in Ukraine. However, the Orange coalition has yet to demonstrate the know-how required to translate election victories into government and political power.

The snap election offers another second chance. Are they up to it? Sober skeptics point to the legacy of squabbling and to the Orange President's two-year inaction. They worry that these attributes rather than the electorates' yearning for a pro-West Ukraine and their distaste for Russian political dominance — after nearly a century of it — may translate into an Orange loss.

To get a second chance the Orange forces must convince Ukrainians that they will do the job right this time. This means providing assurance that an Orange parliament, and President, will abide by the Orange revolution principles — the rule of law, punishment of violators, pro-Ukraine economic policies ranging from privatization of its industrial capital to control of the energy sector, and a pro-West foreign policy orientation. It means ensuring that the 8% economic growth flowing through Ukraine trickles down to the furthest reaches of the nation's impoverished majority, its voters.

How, then, to get this second chance? First, they must win the elections. To do so their election strategists need to bring greater clarity to Ukraine's electorate on the country's key and most divisive internal issues by:

- Stating plainly the reasons for the election call. It is still much misunderstood;
- Downplaying the east/west geographic divide in Ukraine, underscoring such nation-building fundamentals as its common history, culture, religion, language which have endured despite centuries of foreign oppression;
- Setting out clearly, particularly in Eastern Ukraine, reasons why the Orange coalition is pro-West. Offering up such persuasive arguments as the West's proven pro-people record; individual high standard of living; its governments' respect to human rights and freedoms;
- Identifying changes the Orange government aims to implement if elected.

Also, to bring the eastern Ukrainians into the fold. This means diffusing the divisive pro/anti-Russia scenario by convincing the voters from Luhansk to Donetsk of the benefits of a "Ukraine first, last and always policy" by explaining:

- The negative aspects to Ukraine's people of Russia's hungry determination to control its energy, Black Sea, entrance to WTO and NATO, among others, for its own ends;
- The benefits to independent trade versus the role of being Russia's provider of raw material, human intellect and labour force;
- Concede the benefits of good relations with geographic neighbours, regardless of past history. Cite Canada as an example. It has excellent relations with the United States and equally fine ones with Europe and other parts of the world. The former USSR needs a "Canada" in its midst. Offer a vision to Ukraine, and to the world, as being the one.

Moreover, the strategists must get the President to seek the people's forgiveness for betraying the Orange Revolution. Despite recent advances his popularity is hovering at 20%. Without clearing the air further past inactions may be a liability during the election campaign. The good news for the Orange side is that Ukraine's pro-West voter has no alternative to the Orange parties. However, about half of Ukraine's electorate is uncommitted. A clear majority for the Orange side requires some of these undeclared voters: some of them may have been former supporters. A statement of reconciliation will help to bring the disillusioned pro-West electorate, as well as others, on side.

And more work to get a second chance. Elections are won by candidates who keep in touch with the people. The Committee of Voters, Ukraine's election watchdog, commends the Party of Regions for solid performance in meeting with constituents. Other parties get no mention. This absence of praise should get the Orange coalition working at the grass-roots level. In doing so, they might forfeit the sexy suits and fancy cars of the so called "political elite". The image of a pin-striped politician, equated with the mafia and oligarchs, is a turn off for the vast majority Ukraine's poverty ridden electorate. Yulia Tymoshenko, the leader of the Opposition, may be the exception. She dresses expensively yet is generally viewed as speaking from the heart, her party's symbol. The entire Orange election machine might wish to adopt more heart in their campaign by telling the people how an Orange government will close the gap between rich and poor. And, more importantly, how they, the people, are the real "political elite" in a democracy. They hold power during the elections not some pin-striped dandy.

Mush in the first point — winning the elections — is old news to the Orange forces especially to the Yulia Tymoshenko Block who worked the system remarkably well during the last two elections. The second point is new but vitally important. To get another chance to govern the Orange forces must turn their attention to what they are less good at: ensuring cohesion and party discipline beyond the elections.

This requires another group of people — the post election strategist — to get to work now and prepare a take-over power scenario. They might start by:

- Planning for a transition as soon as the elections are called. That's now! In Canada, for instance, post election scenario planning starts early to ensure preparedness for a smooth change-over of power;
- Developing a power-sharing approach in parliament among the Orange members. Without such a plan the down-side is grim. By being unprepared they risk losing power as happened after last year's parliamentary elections;
- Composing a shadow cabinet, a common practice in western democracies. It develops expertise and clarifies policies.

If given a second chance, the Orange forces must resist taking fancy holidays as was the case after the presidential elections. After all, the hope of the Orange forces, once elected, is to get the job done for the people and the country, not to join a self-serving high life of the many in the so called "political elite."

*Oksana Bashuk Hepburn, President U*CAN Ukraine Canada Relations Inc. is and a several-time OSCE elections observer and commentator.*

Yushchenko learns

aware of is "Strike the Shepherd and the sheep will scatter." The weakest link in his plan is Yulia Tymoshenko. The Russians and the Party of Regions are fully cognoscente of this. Tymoshenko is a thorn in the side of more than one business clan in Ukraine and the Russian government in general. Unsuccessful attempts on her life were made during the last Presidential election and her removal from the political picture is the biggest threat to Yushchenko's coalition plans in the next election.

Wolodymyr Derzko is an Associate of CERES, Munk Centre, University of Toronto and an expert on strategic thinking, planning and foresight.

Tymoshenko wants to contain Russia

By Taras Kuzio

The piece de resistance of last month was the publication of Yulia Tymoshenko's 'Containing Russia' in Foreign Affairs journal.

She is the first Ukrainian politician to have published here (it is surprising that President Viktor Yushchenko has never sought to publish in this prestigious and influential journal). Until now articles on Ukraine have largely been written by Western scholars. It is worth noting that it is not easy to publish in Foreign Affairs and usually the journal requests articles.

Russia was very unhappy at the title 'Containing Russia'. The title was not the first choice of Tymoshenko's American consultants and a more preferable title could have been that used in the excerpts published in the International Herald Tribune on April 16 as 'Demand a level playing field'

According to Washington sources the article was written by Tymoshenko, whose knowledge of English is better than that of either Yushchenko or Viktor Yanukovych, with the assistance of her foreign policy advisers and her US-based Public Affairs consultant. The Russian conspiracy mindset that believes Vice President Dick Cheney's office wrote the Foreign Affairs article is off base. The involvement of an American consultant is not unusual in assisting in publishing articles in the US media as this is part of the mandate of Public Affairs consultants. Opinion editorials by Yanukovych and Yushchenko in the Financial Times and Washington Post are written by Western Public Affairs companies working for them.

The American who assisted in preparing the article is not in the US government but the company of which he is a partner (TDI International) officially represents Tymoshenko in the US. The Foreign Agents Registration Act (FARA) requires American companies representing foreign governments to register at FARA but, as a major expose in April 17 Wall Street Journal on American PR companies working for Russian and Ukraine found out, thus far the only law abiding Ukrainian is Tymoshenko. American companies working for Yanukovych or Yushchenko are not registered at FARA.

It is indeed surprising that the president has never learnt English when he is married to an American. The major contrast between Ukrainians and Georgians at international events is that the Georgians all know English (such as Parliamentary Speaker Nina Burjanedze and President Mikheil Saakashvilli) which greatly assists them in networking and lobbying Georgia's national interests. In Tymoshenko's case we can thank her growing knowledge of English on my home region of Yorkshire which produced her rock n' roll son-in-law.

Tymoshenko's article is not for the faint hearted. The published version was supposed to have appeared when she visited the USA (that is, in the March-April edition) but space prevented this. Its publication now coincides with the Ukrainian crisis and likely election campaign. The draft I read two months ago was toned down for publication.

Before the article appeared on line the Russian Foreign Ministry denounced it in unusually strong language.

In the conspiratorial culture that dominates Vladimir Putin's Russia the article is defined as an 'anti-Russian manifesto' and an attempt at rekindling the cold war. The Russian Foreign Ministry is convinced that 'somebody' is standing behind Tymoshenko and this person is allegedly Vice President Dick Cheney. Why? Because he gave a very critical speech of Russia at a meeting in Vilnius in May 2006, was known to be a strong advocate of an orange coalition that could pave the way for US support for Ukraine's NATO membership and most importantly, Moscow is convinced that because Cheney met Tymoshenko on her US visit that they therefore coordinated the article. The US Vice President does not usually meet opposition leaders.

The Russian Foreign Ministry lumps Cheney and Tymoshenko together as Cold War Warriors while trying to convince us that Putin's Munch speech was a 'serious and frank dialogue' that was made in a 'direct and open fashion'. After Putin's Munich speech it was the West which concluded that Russia had rekindled a new cold war.

Russian apologists in the West have always rushed to defend Russian policies. And, so I am eagerly awaiting New America Foundation Anatol Lieven's response. He had already lambasted US policy to Russia and condemned US support for Ukrainian membership in NATO in the March edition of The American Conservative. As an analyst in a conservative Washington think tank said to me last year after an earlier Russophile article, 'Lieven! Someone who hates everything American and loves everything Russian'. Why British scholars like Lieven are so Russophile would require another lengthy blog.

Tymoshenko is in reality not 'anti-Russian'. Her Foreign Affairs article is in depth critique of Russian neo-imperial policies, particularly in the field of energy that she knows and understands. If the article is really a 'Cold War manifesto' it would have included a discussion of NATO's role but NATO is never once mentioned in the article. Tymoshenko is cautious towards Ukraine's NATO membership because she, unlike President Yushchenko, has seriously worked towards obtaining voter support in eastern and southern Ukraine. In the 2006 elections the Tymoshenko bloc came second in these two regions outside the Donbas and Crimea (support for Yushchenko's Our Ukraine was confined to Galicia and Trans-Carpathia).

Tymoshenko's pragmatic, state nationalism is therefore different to Yushchenko's ethnocultural nationalism. Tymoshenko is second to none at rallying state nationalism against outside threats, such as Russia, as seen in when she recently successfully encouraged 420 parliamentary deputies to vote against privatization of the gas pipelines to prevent Russia's joint control over them.

Does this vote mean that the Party of Regions, which voted in favour of this Tymoshenko motion, is also 'anti-Russian'? It would seem that in Russian eyes Cheney, Tymoshenko, Yanukovych, Lukashenka, and me are all 'anti-Russians'.

Ed Note: The Tymoshenko article is too lengthy to reprint in Ukrainian News, but if any of our readers want an electronic copy, please e-mail us at: ukrnews@interbaun.com.

Probe launched in Omelchenko accident

(Ukrainian News Agency/UkrNews) — The Kyiv Pecherskyi District Police Department has launched a criminal case in connection with the road accident in which Parliamentary Deputy Hryhorii Omelchenko of the Yulia Tymoshenko Bloc was injured.

Omelchenko was hospitalized on May 15 after a Nissan automobile hit him in downtown Kyiv. The accident occurred at 09:30 when Omelchenko came out of a parliamentary committee building and attempted to cross a road near 15, Instytutska Street.

In Ukraine road accidents have often been used to cover up political assassinations.

The most notable case was the death of Rukh leader Viacheslav Chornovil in 1999.

Omelchenko is known as one of Ukraine's foremost crimefighters exposing official corruption.

Plyushch named head of security council

(RFE/RL) — President Yushchenko on May 12 relieved Vitaliy Hayduk of his duties as secretary of the National Security and Defense Council (RNBO) and appointed Ivan Plyushch to the post, the presidential website reported.

Hayduk, who headed the RNBO since October 2006, was dismissed after tendering his resignation. Hayduk is a leader of the Industrial Union of Donbas, an affluent and influential business group in Ukraine. According to the "Ukrayinska pravda" website Hayduk differed with Yushchenko over how to handle the ongoing political crisis in Ukraine.

Plyushch is a veteran of Ukrainian politics. He was parliamentary speaker in 1991-94 and 2000-02. Plyushch predicted in an interview with "Kommersant-Ukraina" on May 14 that early parliamentary polls in Ukraine will be held on July 15.

Alberta officials interested in Ukraine training proposals

(UkrNews) — Alberta government officials are open to a proposal to provide English-language training for Ukrainian technicians and trades people whose skills are needed in this province, says a former Ukrainian Minister of Education.

Vasil Kremen, who served as Education Minister of Ukraine between 1999 and 2005, told Ukrainian News on May 10 that he presented such a proposal to officials during his May 3- 11 visit to Alberta.

Kremen met with both International and Intergovernmental Affairs Minister Guy Boutilier, Education Minister Ron Liepert and their officials as well as MP Gene Zwozdesky, Chair of the Advisory Council on Ukraine-Alberta Relations, during his visit.

*The Ukrainian pedagogical delegation with members of the **Alberta Ukrainian Learning Association**, May 5.*

He proposed setting up a program to teach English or augment the language skills of Ukrainian technicians and workers need in Alberta through existing institutions in Ukraine, such as Grant MacEwan College's Kyiv Office. Such a project would be a cooperative effort between the Ukraine and Alberta governments, the institutions, as well as the business sector.

Kremen said Ukraine has many experts in fields that are needed in Alberta. For example, the Ivano-Frankivs'k National Technical University of Oil and Gas in Ivano-Frankivs'k is the foremost institution of oil and gas in the former USSR. It was created in 1967 primarily to fill the needs of Russia's oil and gas industry. Many of its graduates now work in the Tiumen oil and gas fields, but could help Alberta's industry.

Another institute which could help fulfill Alberta's need is the E. O. Paton Electric Welding Institute at the National Academy of Sciences of Ukraine in Kyiv. Recognized as a world centre in welding research, the institute has even developed a revolutionary form of live tissue bonding.

Kremen said that other issues discussed included the education of disabled children and bilingual education.

In Ukraine, disabled children are taught exclusively in segregated boarding schools, while in Alberta they are fully integrated in the regular school system. Ukraine may look at combining both and providing the parents with a choice, he stated.

He said he found the Alberta model of bilingual education particularly interesting as children are taught different subjects in either of the two languages. In Ukraine, by contrast, schools that are Russian, Polish or some other language, teach all the subjects in that language, except for Ukrainian language courses themselves.

Kremen is the author of over 370 scientific works in the domain of philosophy, social and political development of society and pedagogy. He received his Doctor of Science in Philosophy degree from Taras Shevchenko Kyiv State University. He has been awarded the title "Honored Science and Technology Contributor to Ukraine".

During his visit, he was accompanied by Viktor Andrushchenko, Rector of the Drahomanov National Pedagogical University, who has authored over 300 scientific works, textbooks and tutorials for students of higher learning, and supervised theses of 45 candidates and 10 doctors of science, and Vitaly Bondar, Director of Institute of Special Pedagogy, APSU, who is the co-author of the State Program for Special Education of Persons with Special Psycho-Physical Needs; papers and articles concerning Rehabilitation of Disabled Children, and State Standards in Special Education and author of many books and over 150 articles on Special Education.

During their visit, they signed agreements on student and teacher exchanges wit both Grant MacEwan College and the University of Alberta. The U of A agreement also covers the teaching of sign language in Ukraine (See Page 11.)

Dr. Roman Petryshyn, Directors of the Ukrainian Resource and Development Centre at GMC says this marks new direction in pedagogical relations between Canada and Ukraine.

Aside from their meetings with government and institutional officials, the delegation also met with bilingual teachers, administrators and students to discuss closer working relations between schools and school boards in Alberta and selected jurisdictions in Ukraine. The meeting was organized by the Alberta Ukrainian Learning Association (AULA).

As well they visited the bilingual and inclusive education programs at Delwood School and were treated to a children's choir during lunch.

Artistic Director & Producer Serguei Makarov
Music composed by Maestro Yevhen Dosenko, State Honoured Artist of Ukraine
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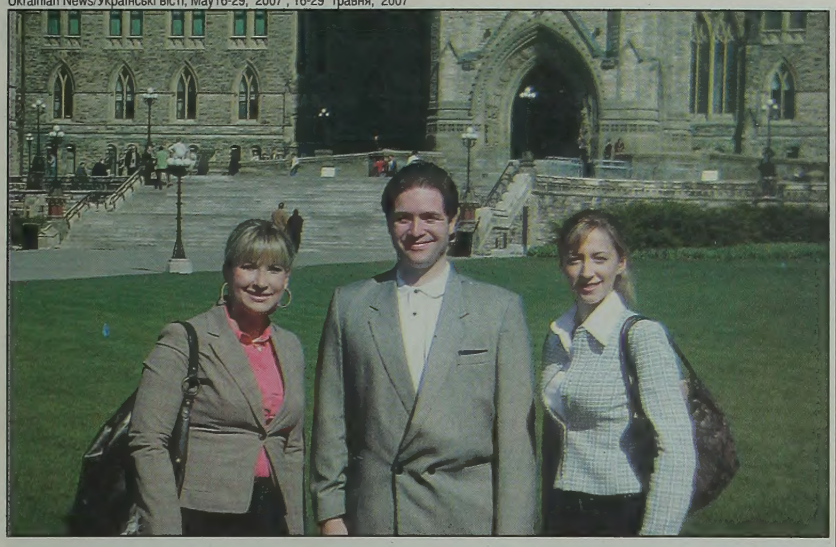
Above: Academicians Vasyl Kremen, Viktor Andrushchenko and Vitaly Bondar of Kyiv, meet with Minister Guy Boutilier, Alberta International, Intergovernment and Aboriginal Relations on May 7. Below: The delegation is greeted by children at Delwood School, May 4.



UCC Interns on Parliament Hill. Left to right: Oriana Masiuk, Roman Dzioba and Oksana Zhovtulya

UCC launches Parliamentary Internship Program

(UCC National)—May 3, three Ukrainian Canadian students began their summer internships on Parliament Hill. The Ukrainian Canadian Congress Parliamentary Internship Program was revived this year after a more than 10 year hiatus. The Program sees youth from across Canada work in the offices of Members of Parliament in Ottawa for three months. The aim of the Program is to allow young Ukrainian Canadians to become more informed about the workings of the federal political system. The interns will become important pars of the Members' teams and will do a wide range of activities in support of the MPs work.

The UCC Youth Committee conducted a wide-ranging recruitment campaign to inform students of the Program. Over 20 applicants were reviewed and three were selected in the open competition. They are:

• Roman Dzioba (Ottawa), a graduate student at the Norman Paterson School of International Affairs at Carleton University. Roman is working in the office of Peggy Nash (Parkdale-High Park);

• Oriana Masiuk (Edmonton), a graduate student at Carleton University's Institute of European and Russian Studies. Oriana will be assisting in the office of Borys Wrzesnewskyj (Etobicoke Centre); and

• Oksana Zhovtulya (Montreal), a law student at the Université de Montréal. Oksana is working at the offices of MPs Peter Goldring (Edmonton East) and Leon Benoit (Vegreville-Wainwright).

UCC is very pleased to acknowledge the substantial gift of Dr. Anne Smigel of Winnipeg to the Program. Her financial support at a critical time allowed UCC to place three interns in Ottawa when only one position was planned for the initial year of the Program. UCC is grateful to the Members of Parliament and their staffs who enthusiastically assisted us in opening up their offices to the young UCC interns.

Preparations are already being made for the 2008 Program. Anyone who wishes to financially support this Program should contact the Ukrainian Canadian Congress.

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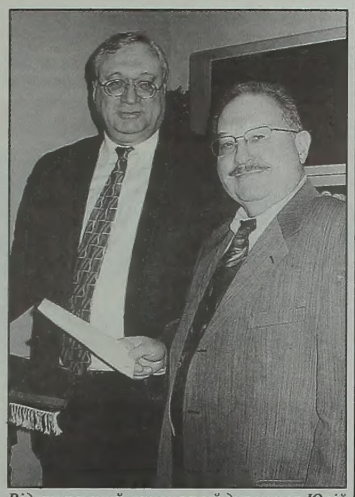
ССУК, Торонто виповнилося 55 років



Відступаючий виконавчий директор Юрій Мусій (зправа) і переобраний голова ССУК Юрій Сеньків.

14 квітня в Суспільній Службі Українців Канади, Філія Торонто відбулися Річні Загальні Збори, на яких була вибрана нова Управа. Збори відкрив Юрій Сеньків - голова Філії ССУК. Він привітав присутніх і за традицією, попросив М. Барщик провести молитву. Предсідником вибрано Олю Даниляк, а протоколярним писаром Рому Слободян. Ці Збори були особливими, бо Суспільній Службі виповнилося 55 років цього року. Це мало і багато: багато тому, що багатьом людям допомогли, а мало тому, що то тільки початок для такої організації, а згодом буде ще багато сил та праці прикладено нашими добровольцями та жертводавцями.

Це також були перші збори для нового Екзекутивного Директора Віктора Гетьманчука, бо Юрій Мусій пішов на пенсію. Пану Мусію щиро подякували за його невтомну працю та вірну службу українській громаді, за його внески у життя українців Торонта та за всі якісні зміни у домівці ССУК. Роман Тицький, чартерований ревізор, прочитав та вияснив фінансовий звіт, котрий вказує на здоровий стан ССУК. Ігор Березовський в імені Контрольної Комісії передав рекомендації на наступний рік, а пані Ольга Калимон подала склад нової дирекції. До нової Управи Філії ССУК ввійшли: Голова – Сеньків Юрій, 1-ий заступник голови – Шулякевич Богдан, 2-ий заступник голови - Сохоцька Христина, секретар - Бурич Марта, скарбник - Головатий Олег, члени - Барщик Маруся, Юник Микола, Вінтоняк-Харко Христя, Дербіш Дарія, Заверуха-Свинтух Ольга, Коваль Марія (голова УЗХФонду), Борис Надя, Лейбюк Оксана, Звірховська Галина, Березовський Ігор - голова контрольної комісії і Ольга Калимон – голова номінаційної комісії. В додатку вибрано іще багато інших помічних референтур.

Багато громадських організацій міста Торонто висловили привіти: від Комітету Українок Канади - Д. Габа, від Ліги Українських Католицьких Жінок - М. Стівенсон, від Конґресу Українок Канади, відділ Торонто - Д. Мельник - Івасюк.

При ССУК існують спеціальні програми та фонди. У ССУК також існують такі програми: Бюро порад - тут можна отримати необхідну інформацію, підтримку та поради, допомагати виповнити аплікації, зробити переклади і т.д. Відвідування Самотніх та Хворих - відвідують хворих та сеньйорів (осіб поважного віку) в лікарнях, старечих та приватних домах, Замісцева Допомога - упорядковує вживаний одяг і висилає посилки в Україну. У ССУК працюють різні самодіяльні гуртки та розвагові програми.

Складовою частиною Суспільної Служби є Український З'єднаний Харитативний Фонд, який допомагає школам, дитячим садочкам та дітям в Канаді, Фонд Поміч України - робота цього фонду направлена на допомогу українцям в Україні - відправляють в Україну посилки, допомагають молодим людям стипендіями, інвалідам, пенсіонерам та убогим, благодійними обідами та харчовими та речовими посилками.

Суспільна Служба Українців Канади, Філія Торонто, нараховує понад 220 членів, серед них добровольці та жертводавці, новоприбулі та місцеві мешканці. Всі ці люди турбуються та дбають про долю українців в Канаді та на теренах України. ССУК відіграє необхідну роль у житті Української спільноти міста Торонта, а праця добровольців, жертводавців та членів ССУК – це віддана та безкорисна праця на благо громади.

Рома Слободян

Російська дамба вкрала в України вже 30 гектарів

(Українська правда)—Впродовж 2005-го - першої половини 2006 року територія острова Тузла через відсутність фінансування робіт з його укріплення зменшилася на 30 га.

Про це в інтерв'ю журналу "Профиль Украина" від 14 травня сказав міністр з питань надзвичайних ситуацій Нестор Шуфрич, повідомляє УНІАН.

"Я був вражений, коли відвідав його (острів Тузла). Після галасу у 2003—2004 роках і спекуляцій "помаранчевих" на цю тему впродовж 2005-го і першої половини 2006 року туди жодної копійки не було вкладено, і ми втратили близько 30 га нашої території - у прямому розумінні слова", - сказав Шуфрич.

Він також повідомив, що рішення комісії МНС було підтримане, і додатково виділено 25 млн. грн. - до тих 10 млн. грн., що вже є в бюджеті, - для розв'язання ситуації на Тузлі. "Сьогодні ми робимо все, щоб захистити острів і не дати піти йому під воду", - сказав міністр. Коса Тузла розташована в Керченській протоці впоперек акваторії. Рівень води в протоці постійно коливається, тому розміри коси не постійні.

29 вересня 2003 року Росія почала будівництво греблі в Керченській протоці від Таманського півострова (Росія) у напрямку міста Керч до українського острова Тузла. Уряд України розцінив будівництво греблі як посягання на суверенітет держави.

ФОТО — РОМАН ПЕТРІВ

Членкині ОУК ім. Ольги Басараб в Едмонтоні.

Річні збори ОУК ім. Ольги Басараб в Едмонтоні

"Отче наш, Ти що є на небесах
Нехай святиться ім'я Твоє
Як на Небі так і на Землі..."

Так розпочались річні збори Організації Українок Канади ім. Ольги Басараб едмонтонського відділу 25-го лютого. Ось такий духово-патріотичний настрій червоною ниткою проліг у річних звітах різних комітетів при ОУК.

Робота жінок в організації говорить сама за себе. На протязі року були проведені ряд різноманітних мироприємст в яких відбилась творча і духова діяльність членкинь ОУК в Едмонтоні. В організації існує тісний зв'язок між членкинями і молодіжними групами такими як: дитячий театр "Джерело" під керівництвом Алли Семенко; молодіжний інструментальний ансамбль "Чайка" – диригентом якого є Людвик Мар'янич. Дитячий театр "Джерело" разом з ансамблем "Чайка" напротязі року виступали з різними виставами як в залі УНО так і поза нею. В дитячих виставах можна було бачити легкий гумор, жарти і українську дитячу класику. В квітні відбулася передвеликодня "Українська Мозаїка", кошти з якої перераховані на дітей Чорнобиля. На початку червня був проведений літературний вечір, присвячений творчості видатного українського письменника – У. Самчука за участю учасників ансамблю "Сузір'ї". Гостем цього вечора була Оксана Бризгун-Соколик з Торонта. Голова едмонтонського ОУК Люба Бойко-Белл разом з іншими колективами зорганізувала чудовий мистецький вечір присвячений ювілею видатного українського поета, письменника і громадського діяча – Івана Франка.

Восени були зорганізовані: художня виставка картин відомих українських художників Едмонтону. В листопаді "Сузір'я" зорганізували музичну забаву "Ретро 20-70-их років". В грудні – Андріївський вечір і св. Миколай. Під час проведення цих мироприємст, культурний комітет тісно співпрацював із господарчим комітетом. Контрольна комісія провадить чітку, здисципліновану роботу і тримає строгий контроль над фінансовими книжками. Сухі цифри, прибутки, видатки стають творчістю в цих людей.

Без перебільшення можна сказати, що секрети успіхів у роботі знаходяться у порозумінні, взаємоповазі і працелюбності наших членкинь, а також в енергійності голови ОУК Л. Бойко-Белл.

Нововибрана управа ОУК в Едмонтоні, яку очолила переобрана голова Люба Бойко-Белл, з гордістю і теплотою пообіцяли і надальше співпрацювати з українською громадою на благо українського народу. Бажаєм новій Управі і Голові щастя, здоров'я і творчого натхнення для дальшої праці.

Прихильниця ОУК Едмонтон

Міська рада Києва назвала вулицю іменем Митрополита Липківського

(СКУ)—26 квітня Київська міськрада проголосувала за перейменування вулиці Урицького в центрі Києва на вулицю ім. Митрополита Липківського. Світовий Конгрес Українців у цьому був надзвичайно активним, спілкуючись безпосередньо та завдяки особистим зустрічам у Київській міській раді.

Цій справі, ініційованій Українським Православним Братством з Нортпорту, Флорида, було відмовлено у січні 2003 року заступником мера М. Пошивановим. У квітні 2004 року Братство повторно звернулося з проханням у листі до мера міста Олександра Омельченка, а потім знову – у серпні 2005 року. У лютому 2006 року член Комісії з питань найменувань та пам'ятних знаків Сергій Білокінь інформував Братство, що 25 січня 2006 року Комісія вирішила одноголосно рекомендувати перейменування. На жаль, рекомендації комісій міста й рішення Київської міської адміністрації та Київської міськради не завжди узгоджуються. Ніяких наступних дій не було зроблено, поки Братство не звернулося до СКУ зайнятися цим проектом і у грудні 2006 року від СКУ вийшов перший лист до теперішнього мера міста Леоніда Черновецького. Після звернення відбулися переговори і зустрічі у Києві з різними заступниками мера, головами комітетів та лідерами фракцій. Остаточно всі фракції Київської міської ради повністю або частково (за винятком соціалістів) погодилися підтримати пропозицію, і було винесено рішення поставити це питання для вирішення Київської міськради 26 квітня 2007 року.

Митрополит Василь Липківський, один із засновників та первоієрарх Української Автокефальної Православної Церкви, жив на цій вулиці у Києві та, починаючи з 1905 року, служив священиком неподалік у Солом'янській парафії. 9 травня 1919 року після своєї першої служби українською мовою у Михайлівському соборі м. Києва його було позбавлено духовного стану російською церквою. У 1921 році він був обраний Митрополитом Української Православної Автокефальної Церкви. Переслідуваний Радянською владою, у 1938 році він був арештований та страчений.

Мойсей Урицький, який народився в Україні, у Чернігові, був головою ЧК, секретної поліції у Петрограді під час революції.

У процесі перейменування вулиці Президент СКУ Аскольд Лозинський мав зустрічі з заступником мера Володимиром Головачем, який запропонував СКУ скласти список вулиць м. Києва для перейменування їх у майбутньому Київською міською радою. СКУ намагається зайнятися цією пропозицією.

URDC celebrates 20th anniversary

(UkrNews)—The Ukrainian Resources and development Centre at Grant MacEwan College celebrated its 2oth anniversary at the Kyiv Konnection banquet held at St. Basil's Ukrainian Cultural Centre in Edmonton, May 10.

"In 1987 a small group of visionaries saw the potential of setting up the first Ukrainian centre in Canada's college system — in parallel with the work in Ukrainian studies being done at several universities," said Dr. Roman Petryshyn, Director of URDC at the fundraising event, presented by the Ukrainian Foundation for College Education.

"What we knew at the time was that a new kind of Ukrainian centre was needed. Ukrainian courses and centres already existed elsewhere, but none had as its principle mission to work in the college system (which is as big as the university system in Canada), focus primarily on realizing the educational potential and aspirations of the community and open up new fields of Ukrainian studies in Canada," he added.

Initially the URDC organized projects in the Ukrainian performing and visual arts, then, responding to Ukraine's independence, began working there. It has had projects with Ukrainian farmers, with the nursing profession, in business education and in deafness studies.

He noted that this past year Drs. Doris and Peter Kule donated a further $750,000 in addition to the 1/2 million dollars they provided in 2004, making a gift total of 1.25 million to URDC.

"Alberta is becoming a centre of excellence in Ukrainian Studies. However we need funding and we need to keep working to realize our full potential. I believe if can be achieved with your help," said Dr. Petryshyn.

Bringing greetings from the Premier of Alberta, Municipal Affairs Minister Ray Danyluk acknowledged the important work the URDC has done over its 20 year history, especially in terms of Alberta-Ukraine relations.

"Economically, Alberta and Ukraine's trade relationship is worth more than $18 million annually. But, when one considers that the long history of cooperation and partnership between the two and the fact that one of every three Albertans is of Ukrainian descent, it's apparent that Alberta-Ukraine relations are priceless."

Ray Danyluk

Danyluk also stressed Premier Ed Stelmach's dedication to his roots, noting both his and the premier's ancestors came in the late 1890s.

"Ukrainian is a very major part of who we are. I cannot tell you how important the relationship is between ourselves and Ukraine — the history, the dedication ...the social implications. I know there are more individuals who do not know a word of Ukrainian. But their kids are Ukrainian dancers. Ladies and gentlemen that is a tribute to those who respect and appreciate what Ukrainians brought to this country."

Edmonton Mayor Stephen Mandel commented on the "great relationship between the city of Edmonton and the Ukrainian community", adding "we're truly blessed to have such a marvelous community."

"We need you to make a greater effort to go to Ukraine to get more people to move here," he sated before presenting Dr. Petryshyn with a plaque honouring the URDC on its 20 years.

Special guest Dr. Vasil Kremen, former Minister of Education of Ukraine, commended Alberta Ukrainians for preserving their language, faith and family traditions.

He added that as minister of education he has traveled throughout many countries and has seen that the best efforts to maintain Ukrainian learning are in Alberta and presented Dr. Petryshyn with a bulava on the occasion of the anniversary.

The task ahead is to see that Ukraine becomes noticeably more developed economically, nationally and socially, with that that it becomes among the most developed countries of the world.

This has to be done "with the memory of those heroes who in Ukraine and in Canada both fought for and dreamed of an independent Ukrainian state. Glory to Ukrainian Canadians! Glory to Ukraine! Glory to heroes!" he concluded.

Dr. Janet Paterson Weir. Executive Vice President Academic at GMC, described Ukraine as one of the college's vital partnerships

"The reason this is so important is the influence of hands-on globalization and what we are all doing in very real terms," she stated.

Referring to an agreement signed that day with the Drahomonov Pedagogical University in Ukraine, she added that "with each agreement with our Ukrainian colleagues with each partnership, and with one student at a time, this relationship will made a difference in a ...global world and your support is fundamental."

Dr. Debra Russell, Director of the Western Canadian Centre for Studies in Deafness at the University of Alberta commented on the new program by which U of A will help teach Ukrainian sign language in Ukraine.

"The study of Ukrainian Sign Language is an exciting area that offers a path to new ways of providing Deaf people with meaningful access to education. That is, education through a language that is suited to their strength, the sense of vision," she said

"But perhaps more importantly, the study of signed languages teaches us about the capacity of humans to find ways to communicate and participate fully in life through languages that are unique, beautiful and complete," Dr. Russell added.

Ivan Bodnarchuk, a business student from GMC Ukraine, on a practicum in Edmonton introduced three other students participating in the program —Volodymyr Melnychuk, Vadym Polischuk and Borys Deriy.

George Zaharia presents Alan Skoreyko with the UFCE President's Award.

Skoreyko presented UFCE President's Award

(UkrNews)—Ukrainian Foundation for College Education President George Zaharia presented this UFCE President's Award to Alan Skoreyko, at the Kyiv Konnection banquet, May 10.

Skoreyko's involvement with the UFCE began in October 1999. Two years later he was elected as the President, a position he held until February 2004. Since that time he has served as the Past President, actively participating in the deliberations and activities of the organization.

In February 2002, Skoreyko signed an application for a grant from the Ukrainian Canadian Foundation of Taras Shevchenko that led to a formal agreement that was signed at the 2004 Kyiv Konnection Banquet. This has resulted in a $300,000 endowment that is invested with the Taras Shevchenko Foundation. The resulting revenue provides the financial means to allow UFCE to offer financial assistance in support of the work of the Ukrainian Resource and Development Centre, Canadian students studying in Ukraine and students from Ukraine studying in Edmonton.

Skoreyko also requested the Community Development Minister of the time, Gene Zwozdesky, who in turn involved Lyle Oberg, Minister of Learning, to assist in establishing an endowment to fund "International Alberta Ukraine Awards" for students. The resulting scholarships were for Alberta students studying in Ukraine as well as for students from Ukraine studying in Alberta. A $500,000 endowment now exists with Alberta Advance Education and provides five $5,000 awards annually. To date $125,000 has been awarded to the 25 students.

On two occasions, the board was faced with specific financial needs to meet two worthwhile goals. The first was fulfilling its obligation to match the $150,000 sum, that the Taras Shevchenko Foundation had promised to grant UFCE if we would match that sum. The second was to help pay for the publishing of the twentieth anniversary booklet, intended to document the history and successes of URDC, copies of which were being distributed at the banquet.

Skoreyko, along with several other members of the board served on fundraising committees that planned two successful breakfast fundraisers. In the first case, generous donors donated in excess of $26,000 while in the second case, in excess of $10,000 was raised.

Skoreyko also serves as one of the seven founding trustees of UFCE Trust, established with a mandate to invest and manage permanent funds in order to provide annual donations that advance Ukrainian culture and education.

U of A leads study of Ukrainian Sign Language

By Caitlin Crawshaw

(U of A ExpressNews)—Under the rule of the former Soviet Union, the education system in Ukraine wasn't allowed to teach sign language to the deaf. An international agreement signed at the University of Alberta May 8 is helping teachers and deaf students in Ukraine to teach and learn signing.

Led by education professor Dr. Debra Russell the Ukrainian Sign Language Project will document Ukrainian Sign Language. It is the first project of its type in the world.

"It's never been researched before," said Russell, who holds the David Peikoff Chair of Deafness Studies at the U of A. "Since sign language was not allowed to be used in the country, there was no formal study of Ukrainian Sign Language. It's really the first linguistic, descriptive study."

"Under Soviet times, the educational method was entirely oral. So, while deaf people have used sign language for centuries, it wasn't allowed to be used in school systems and it wasn't a formal area of study," she added. "And now, as with most signed languages, it's capturing the most interest. Sign language research is one of the growing fields across most countries, and Ukraine is no different in that way."

The data collected by the project will help Ukrainian educators instruct students in Ukrainian Sign Language and develop teaching curriculum, said Russell. It will also help researchers better understand American Sign Language, she added.

Dr. Judy Lupart, a U of A educational psychology professor who holds the Canada Research Chair in Special Education, said the agreement expands the range of collaboration between Drahomanov National Pedagogical University and the U of A.

Viktor Andrushchenko, rector of Drahomanov National Pedagogical University, noted that the agreement builds upon previous collaboration. He's particularly pleased with the agreement's specific focus.

"Another of these important areas is education of children with special needs, and the training of a new generation of teacher susceptible to new, technical innovations, and able to adapt to the new realities of life," he said.

According to U of A Dean of Education Dr. Fern Snart, the MOU "reflects beautifully the faculty's goals for international initiatives within our academic plan."

"It's well understood, but I think it bears repeating, that when we collaborate in this fashion, it enriches both sides of the collaboration," she said.

"I also know that when talented, enthusiastic people work together, there are wonderful surprises in terms of achievements that have not yet been planned or dreamed. And I hope some of those surprises will begin to happen as early as today."

Dr. George Richardson, the Faculty of Education associate dean (international initiatives), said the agreement is a great place "to begin looking at the range of future opportunities."

"We look forward to a long and very profitable collaboration."

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Яценюк зустрівся з представниками українських громад

(МЗС)—Перебуваючи з офіційним візитом в Канаді Міністр закордонних справ України Арсеній Яценюк зустрівся з представниками української громади в Оттаві та Торонто.

Вітаючи представників українців Канади, Яценюк зазначив, що діяльність українських громадських організацій Канади розглядається як важливий фактор просування національних інтересів нашої держави та піднесення її міжнародного авторитету. Також він привітав турботу українців Канади щодо збереження національних традицій, намагання прищепити своїм дітям та онукам любов та повагу до української культури, активне примноження культурної скарбниці українського народу. Досягнення українців в Канаді в політичній, економічній та суспільній сферах – це приклад для всього українства, висловив переконання Яценюк під час публічних зустрічей з громадою.

Окремо Міністр подякував активістам української діаспори за кроки, які вони здійснюють задля визнання світовою спільнотою Голодомору 1932-33 рр. актом геноциду проти українського народу, а також за зусилля завдяки яким у містах Калґарі, Едмонтоні та Вінніпезі встановленні пам'ятники жертвам Голодомору.

У ході зустрічі було обговорено також сучасний стан українсько-канадських відносин, шляхи зміцнення реального спеціального партнерства між Україною та Канадою в нових політичних умовах. Яценюк відзначив особливе значення, яке Україна надає питанню активізації співпраці державних структур із об'єднаннями наших земляків за кордоном.

Під час зустрічей з українською громадою в Оттаві та Торонто Міністр Яценюк вручив посвідчення закордонних українців ряду українських активістів та посвідчення про присвоєння почесного звання "Заслужений працівник культури України" керівникам Українського драматичного театру "Заграва".

Міністр Яценюк взяв також участь у церемонії покладання квітів до пам'ятника Лесі Українки в Торонто, ознайомився зі станом підготовки до проведення виставки Трипільської культури в Королівському музеї Онтаріо та виступив із лекцією в Оттавському університеті.

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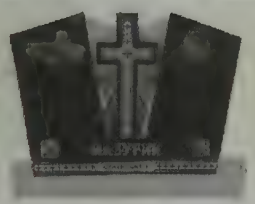

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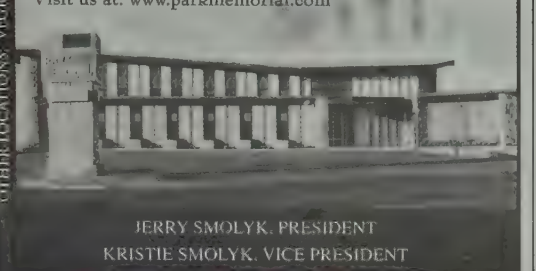

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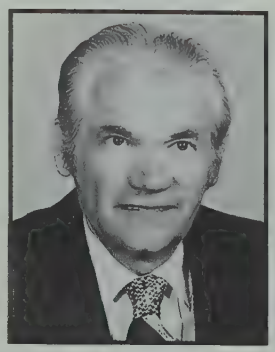

Мій батько, Богдан Казимира народився в Чернієві на Станиславщині в Україні, але більшість свого життя провів на чужині. Вже молодим юнаком, при поміччю Митрополита Андрея Шептицького, висилають його батьки на студії до Бельгії, де протягом чотирьох років, разом з поважною групою студентів з Галичини вчиться в Лювенському університеті. Студії завершує дипльомом з політичних наук 1935-ого року. По повороті до Львова, продовжує студії в Українській Богословській Академії де одержує ступінь магістра філозофських наук і згодом стає асистентом проф. др. Н. Конрада. Викладає соціологію та філозофію. Події Другої Світової Війни, змушують його знову залишити рідні землі. Якийсь час він затримується у Відні де починає докторські студії на Віденському університеті, відтак працює у місті своєї молодості, Лювені, а дальше, за стараннем Владики Василія Ладики, Архиепископа Вінніпегу, приїздить до Канади.

Мій батько, Богдан Казимира, вперше побачив місто Едмонтон зимою 1950-ого року. В той час Братство Українців Католиків (БУК) Західнього Екзархату відчувало дуже недостачу постійного організатора. Ту позицію мій батько радо прийняв. Вона дала йому змогу розвинути працю в церковних, як теж в загально громадських організаціях.

Перших п'ять років свого побуту в Канаді (1950-55), Богдан Казимира провів в Едмонтоні, працюючи для новоствореної Української Католицької Епархії, під проводом Кир Ніля Саварина. Її мій батько віддав своє знання і енергію ще молодої тоді людини. Ті роки залишили в нього почуття задоволення. Він бачив що праця організації поступає вперед і є причини радіти її першими осягами. Богдан Казимира відчув велику вдячність до людей які його так щиро прийняли і були помічними в перших роках його побуту в Канаді. Особливо часто згадував батьківську опіку Кир Ніля та раду співпрацю Українського Католицького Духовенства Альберти. В його пам'яті залишилися на завжди теплі, товариські відносини Іларія Боцюркова, голови Братства Українців Католиків. Він сам емігрант, ще з 1927-ого року, і добре розумів труднощі нової, повоєнної еміграції. Був помічним де було потрібно і часто служив доброю порадою. Іларій Боцюрків умів притягнути до співпраці свідомих, ідейних одиниць, які в останних двох роках (1949-1950) прибули до Канади.

Братство Українців Католиків (БУК) Західнього Екзархату, яке Іларій Боцюрків очолював, мало за собою певну історію. Заснован, ще в 1932-ому році, БУК тішилося деякими осягами та набутим досвідом. Його ціль була зкріплювати та ширити знання нашого обряду, допомагати у розбудові епархії, підтримувати українську католицьку пресу, українські культурні імпрези та брати живу участь у громадському житті. Така програма Братства вимагала постійної, наполегливої праці та нових творчих ідей. Показалася потреба власного пресового органу, який мав би бути зв'язком з поодинокими розсіяними відділами по просторих теренах Західнього Екзархату. Створення такого бюра і багато других в той час актуальних проєктів, дало мойому батькові змогу розвинути ширшу діяльність. Він бере на себе обов'язок директора і головного редактора Пресового Бюра, яке двічі у місяць, приготовляє вістки для преси. Він організує бібліотеку "Католицької Акції" якої завданням є видавати неперіодично популярні книжечки, стає редактором і директором радієвих програм, організує "Соціяльні дні," редагує місячний орган БУК-у "Католицька Акція," відбуває багато поїздок, бере участь в конгресах і з'їздах, так релігійного як світського характеру. Тут треба згадати 60-ть ліття поселення українців в Канаді, ювілейні святкування оо. Василіян в Канаді (1952), вистави преси, виведення "Обжинок" у місцевості Ламонт і тим подібні імпрези. Особливо видатною подією для мойого батька був IV Конґрес Українців Католиків Канади, що відбувся в Едмонтоні з днях 3-ого по 5-ого липня 1953-ого року. Цій справі він присвятив багато зусилля і часу. Йому було важливим, щоб Конгрес був успішним і приніс сподівані наслідки.

Постійною підпорою в його праці були священики. Багато з них товариші ще зі студентських часів. До них треба зарахувати о. Євгена Дмитрука, о. Володимира Тарнавського, о. Ярослава Федуника, о. Володимира Жолкевича та других. Мій батько мав теж піддержку в особах проф. о. др-а Василя Лаби, др-а Івана Німчука, о. др-а Михайла Сопуляка, в той час адміністратора і редактора едмонтонського тижневика "Українські Вісті." Співпрацювали дуже тісно з ним також отці Василіяни, особливо о. Севастіян Шевчук, о. Марко Дирда і Василіянський осередок в Мондері.

В приватному житті, мій батько одружується з Єлисаветою Дорота, яку знав ще з дому. Закладають родину. В Едмонтоні народилися їм дві доні, Надя і Марта. Молодший син Дмитро вже народився в Оттаві. Разом Богдан та Єлисавета (Ліза) включаються в життя української громади Едмонтону. Відназодять давних знайомих – Романкових, Буцманюків, Гуглевичів — і здобувають нових – Стефанових, Залеських, Кундів, Скрипників і других. Приємні спомини про дружні, майже родинні відносини людей з якими вони приятелювали в той час, залишилися в їх пам'яті назавжди.

Осінню 1955-го року Богдан Казимира робить нелегке рішення. Залишає родину, працю і Едмонтон та виїздить на студії до Монтреалю. Там в університеті МкҐілл здобуває нову професію бібліотекаря. До Едмонтону вже не вернувся але за ним постійно тужив. Під кінець 1956-ого року родина Казимирів переселюється до Оттави. Там мій батько обняв посаду бібліотекаря у міністерстві сільського господарства (Department of Agriculture). Три роки пізнійше переїздить до Ріджайни, Саскачеван, де прожив майже п'ятдесят років.

Богдан Казимира є автором багатьох наукових праць про Митрополита Андрея Шептицького, Епископа Никиту Бутку, отців Василіян та Українську Католицьку Церкву в Канаді. Був членом багатьох професійних товариств та українських організацій – УВАН, НТШ, ПЛАСТ, ТУКПП. Його архіви (F196) зберігаються у Ріджайні, Saskatchewan Archives Board.

Богдан Казимира помер 14-ого лютого 2007-ого року на 93-ому році життя. Святу Літургію за покійного відправили у церкві св. Василія Великого у Ріджайні 1-ого березня 2007 року о. мітрат презвітер Рудольф Лужний, о. мітрат Леонард Романов, і о. Юрій Лазурко.

Вічна Йому Пам'ять!

Надя Казимира

Що робити з радянськими пам'ятниками Львова?

Галина Терещук, *Радіо Свобода*

Воювати чи не воювати з радянськими пам'ятниками? Це питання сьогодні активно обговорюється у Львові. Неоднозначні коментарі лунають уже й з Москви. Адже депутати міськради Львова планують створити комісію, яка описала б усі радянські пам'ятники у місті.

Об'єднання «Свобода», яке очолює депутат облради Олег Тягнибок, хоче демонтати ці монументи. На останній сесії Львівської міськради депутати підтримали таку ініціативу «Свободи», і вирішили створити комісію, яка має описати всі пам'ятники з радянськими символами у Львові. А опісля депутати можуть вирішувати, чи демонтувати символи імперсько-більшовицького періоду.

Таких пам'ятників, точніше меморіальних комплексів, встановлених у радянські часи, у Львові залишилось 2-3, а символи можна побачити на військових цвинтарях. Скажімо, на Пагорбі слави поховані солдати та офіцери, які визволяли Львів, і поміж ними є могили енкаведистів, які у 44-50-х по львівських тюрмах катували місцеве населення. Про це свідчать численні архівні матеріали.

Майже усі російські ЗМІ блискавично підхопили ініціативу «Свободи», назвавши її рішення про демонтаж радянських пам'ятників та символів. МЗС Росії надіслало Україні заяву з протестом. Але насправді жодного рішення про демонтаж не було. У ніч з 12 на 13 травня на Пагорбі слави невідомі скинули на землю гірлянду, встановлену на Алеї Героїв військового меморіалу.

За словами культуролога Тараса Возняка і заяви групи науковців та митців, у Львові відбувається провокація, і тут намагаються напередодні виборів реалізувати так званий естонський сценарій. Така ситуація вигідна, за словами, Тараса Возняка, оскільки дестабілізувавши ситуацією, Росія може очолити її і нею керувати.

Toronto Ukrainian Festival to be held at Harbourfront Centre

(Toronto Ukrainian Festival)—Jurij Klufas, Chair of the Toronto Ukrainian Festival, formerly the Bloor West Village Ukrainian Festival, announced that the 11th Annual Toronto Ukrainian Festival will be presented at Harbourfront Centre during the Labour Day weekend – from Friday, Aug. 31 until Monday, Sept. 3.

The four-day Festival will feature the Ukrainian Zabava program, which will unite all visitors in the celebration of Ukrainian culture. Guests will explore the new and old picturesque traditions of the Ukrainian wedding celebration on the Concert Stage. The Ukrainian wedding is a time of great joy and fun-filled parties, interwoven with ancient symbolic rituals.

The Festival will also feature performances of folk dance groups and contemporary Ukrainian ethno-rock bands. Modern and vintage Ukrainian films will immerse participants in the challenges faced by Ukrainian émigrés in the new world, and will provide Canadians with an important historical perspective of Ukraine's place in history.

At its annual meeting on March 21, 2007, the Board of Directors officially adopted a new name for the former Bloor West Village Ukrainian Festival – The Toronto Ukrainian Festival. The festival has also moved its mailing address to 203-2336A Bloor St. W, Toronto, ON, M6S 1P3 and has become a member of the Bloor West Village Business Improvement Association.

In addition, the Board increased its membership with four new young professionals with several years of hands on experience in the key organizational roles at the festival. Olya Grod and Raya Shadursky have stepped down from the Board after ten years of service. Reflecting on her involvement since the inception of the Festival, outgoing board member Olya Grod remarked, "This has been an incredible journey, thanks to the support of so many people. I have no doubt that the new members of the Board will continue the evolution of the Toronto Ukrainian Festival and it will enjoy the same level of success that it has had for the past ten years."

The Toronto Ukrainian Festival (Formerly The Bloor West Village Ukrainian Festival) was inaugurated in 1997. The Festival promotes and fosters Ukrainian culture and traditions as integral elements of Canada's multicultural mosaic. The first organizers of the Festival were the Ukrainian Canadian Congress - Toronto Branch and Kontakt Televison.

Harbourfront Centre on Toronto's waterfront is an innovative non-profit cultural organization, which creates events and activities of excellence that enliven, educate and entertain a diverse public.

For more information about these organizations and to get new updates on the exciting festival program please visit www.ukrainianfestival.com and <www.harbourfrontcentre.com>.

Chornobyl as commemorated in North American popular songs

(Oseredok)—Is there a canon of Chornobyl songs in North America? Making the case for its existence was Dr. Denis Hlynka at a lecture series sponsored by Oseredok Ukrainian Cultural and Educational Centre on April 26 on the 21st anniversary of the Chornobyl nuclear disaster. Dr. D. Hlynka, acting director of the Centre for Ukrainian Canadian Studies at the University of Manitoba, together with Dr. Robert Klymasz, has been researching the impact of the Chornobyl nuclear disaster on North American music makers and the recording industry. Their findings showed that Chornobyl resonates in many different genres of Western music.

Using the image of Shevchenko's "perebendia", Hlynka draws an analogy between the "kobzar" or "bandurist" as an entertainer and the teller of stories, documenting social issues and historical events, and American folk singers. His examples of the Chornobyl theme in folk ranges from Canadian Bruce Cockburn and "Radium Rain"(1986) to American Richard Hayes Phillips and his "Chernobyl"(1986) to Paul Simon (Rhythm of the Saints) and his "Can't run but"(1990), among others. Hlynka sees Kristin Lems' song that begins with the words "I'll tell you a story that happened in April of 1986" as a Chornobyl narrative akin to Ukrainian "dumy". He finds the Chornobyl motif in The Tea Merchants, a group from the United Kingdom performing Celtic music and their song "Chernobyl" (1986), as well as the USA Klezmer group Brave Old World with its song "Chernobyl".

Hlynka likes to identify protest singers as "displaced bandurists", disbursing the story of Chornobyl. As examples, he cites the Canadian punk/grunge group Silent Scream and their song "Chornobyl Experience" written by Andrew Dragan and William Lento and the American thrash metal group Screaming Headless Torsos and "Chernobyl Firebirds".

Finally, Hlynka takes a brief look at jazz and classical music. In jazz he cites "Children of Chornobyl" by Ukrainian Canadian John Stetch. He points out some depth of field in classical music with examples such as Dennis Eberhard's "Prometheus Wept" (1998, for orchestra), Nancy Van de Vate's "Chernobyl" (1987, for orchestra) and Laryssa Kuzmenko's "In Memoriam" (1997, for piano), among others. He mentions in passing Roman Hurko's "Liturgy" (2001) dedicated to victims of Chornobyl.

Hlynka readily admits that there is no evidence that any of the composers and performers of popular music had any awareness of the importance of the geographic and political dimension of the Chornobyl disaster to Ukraine and the Ukrainian nation. Chornobyl in these songs is a symbol for technology gone out of control; it is synonymous with concern for the ecology of our planet. He argues, nevertheless, that the phenomenon of creating songs about Chornobyl from the outside, from beyond Ukraine, brings Ukraine into the global village. That, surely, is a good thing.

UWC seeks papal intervention in Ukrainian-Polish relations

(UWC)—The Ukrainian World Congress is seeking the assistance of the Holy See in improving Ukrainian-Polish relations. It a letter to Pope Benedict XVI the UWC singled out the Cathedral of St. Teresa and the Barefoot Carmelites in Przemysl:

"The Roman Catholic Cathedral of St. Teresa and the Barefoot Carmelites in Przemysl, Poland once belonged to the Ukrainian Greek Catholic Church. In 1947 Ukrainians were forcibly relocated from Przemysl and other Polish territory to the western regions of Poland. Subsequently, property belonging to the Ukrainian community including its churches were confiscated by the then communist State. The subject Cathedral was included within the confiscatory program. Thereafter the Cathedral was turned over to the Polish Roman Catholic Church," said the UWC in the letter to the Pope.

"Following the demise of the communist People's Republic of Poland and the formation of the democratic Republic of Poland, the Roman Catholic Church in Poland through the intervention of His Holiness Pope John Paul II seemingly restituted the Ukrainian Greek Catholic Church for the aforesaid confiscation by transferring to it a lesser in size and inferior in location, but nonetheless significant edifice in the immediate vicinity which now bears the name Cathedral of St. John the Baptist. The original Cathedral to this date remains the property of the Polish Roman Catholic Church and the Carmelites.

"Without addressing the issue of appropriate restitution (simply returning the subject property would be most appropriate in our view) which right should be preserved to the Ukrainian Greek Catholic Church and the Ukrainian–Polish community, we are addressing a more egregious matter involving the subject Cathedral. Located within the Cathedral are at least three bronze plagues which dedicate the Cathedral appropriately to the memory of Polish war veterans, but with the additional inscription that they were murdered by bands of the Ukrainian Insurgent Army and the Organization of Ukrainian Nationalists. Thus the Cathedral, an ostensibly religious structure, serves as an offensive anti-Ukrainian museum stirring ethnic enmity and tension.

"We are an umbrella organization for Ukrainians residing outside Ukraine founded upon Christian traditions, concerned with the well-being of our communities throughout the globe. Your Holiness' kind consideration of this matter and spiritual intervention with the Polish Roman Catholic Church would serve to enhance Christian principles in the Polish Church's relations with its Ukrainian neighbors." The letter concluded.

Copies of the UWC letter were transmitted to His Eminence Jozef Cardinal Glemp of the Roman Catholic Church in Poland, His Eminence Archbishop and Cardinal Lubomyr Huzar, head of the Ukrainian Greek Catholic Church, His Excellency Archbishop Ivan Martyniak, Archbishop-Metropolitan for the Ukrainian Greek Catholics of Poland and the Petro Tyma, head of the Association of Ukrainians in Poland.

Nash pays tribute to Sydorenko

(Office of Peggy Nash)—May 15, Peggy Nash, Member of Parliament for Parkdale – High Park, released the following statement to pay tribute to Ukrainian born Toronto Artist, Petro Sydorenko:

"On May 6th, only a few days short of his 81st birthday, Petro Sydorenko passed away, leaving his wife, Kateryna and two children Wasyl and Halyna. Mr. Sydorenko was an accomplished artist who lived in Toronto. Many of his works had as their theme, the suffering he saw in his native land during the Holodomor (genocidal famine) — one of the largest national catastrophes of the Ukrainian nation in modern history.

"Sydorenko had a difficult life in Soviet occupied Ukraine. The youngest of 10 children, during the Holodomor, his mother was caught hiding a sack of corn, which earned her four years in Siberia. It was on Karl Marx Street, in Kryvyy Rih, that the seven year old Sydorenko saw the full effects of the famine, which became the subject of his most significant work. During World War II, Sydorenko was sent to a forced labour camp.

"After the war he managed to escape to Canada, arriving in Toronto in 1951. He studied at the Ontario College of Art under the tutelage of Frederick Varley and A.Y. Jackson, two of the Group of Seven. It was during this time that he married Kateryna Wasyliw.

"Although he was diagnosed with multiple sclerosis in 1976, he continued his work as a technical illustrator for the Ontario Ministry of Transport and ran an arts school from his home.

"As the Member of Parliament for Parkdale – High Park, I wish to join with my constituents in paying tribute to the life of this talented Ukrainian Canadian."

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who passed away on 12 April, 2007
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Ukraine kept hopes alive by beating Norway

By Jenny Wiedeke

(IIHF)—Ukraine kept its hopes of staying in the top division alive after skating to a 3-2 win May 6 against Norway in Relegation Round action. Yuriy Navarenko broke a 2-2 tie□with the winning goal midway through the third period.

"This was a really tough loss," Norway's Mads Hansen said, "because I thought we looked better today than our last game against Austria. We had a lot of chances. We should have won this game."

"You can't win games when you can't score," Norwegian Head Coach Roy Johansen said. "We had so may wasted chances in front of the Ukraine net."

It seemed as if there was a jinx on the Norwegian team in the first period, which featured a Norwegian shot off the crossbar, a failed lengthy two-man advantage in the early going, and a Ukrainian goal that went in off a Norwegian defenseman's helmet.

Yes, that's correct. Ukraine took advantage of its third power play of the game at 14:01 when Dmytro Tsyrul fired a shot that grazed off a Norwegian player's helmet, creating a rainbow trajectory and going in over the shoulder of goaltender Pal Grotnes. An apparent Norwegian goal was then disallowed in the waning minutes of the period after a lengthy review determined that the puck ricocheted off the crossbar at a nearly impossible angle. It was Norway's Patrick Thoresen who broke the hex when he scored a pure power play goal off the faceoff to tie the game at one midway through the second period.

Penalties continued to plague both teams, and both squads took advantage of the extra man, exchanging power play tallies in the second half of the period. Oleg Blagoi scored on a rebound to give Ukraine the 2-1 lead, but Mats Trygg had the reply for Norway, firing home a slapshot from the point to even the game at two with 1:43 left before the buzzer.

It was, appropriately enough, a power-play goal that sealed the win for Ukraine. Yuriy Naverenko fired a shot in from the point with 11:09 left in the game for the win. The game-winner came less than two minutes after Norway had its best chance to pull ahead with 1:34 of 5-on-3 power-play time.

"We let a lot of goals in on the penalty kill," Hansen said. "We're doing a lot of good things, but a deflection here and a deflection there, and things don't go our way."

"They got a couple of lucky bounces [on the play]," Norway's Tommy Jakobsen said. "That third goal, I don't know about it, because I thought that one of their guys was interfering with our goalie so that he couldn't move. But, I guess the ref didn't see it that way."

Ukrainian Head Coach Oleksandr Seukand said: "I held a group meeting and talked to the players about the game, but everyone realized how serious things were, being in the Relegation Round. We knew we had to win today."

Shevchenko accepts libel damages

(WorldSoccerNews.com/AFP)—Chelsea star Andriy Shevchenko accepted libel damages from a British newspaper May 3 after it claimed that he was a "dressing room spy" for the club's tycoon owner Roman Abramovich.

The Ukraine striker took legal action against the Daily Mirror, which also alleged that fellow players blamed him for a row between Abramovich and the club's manager Jose Mourinho. The tabloid also claimed that Shevchenko had wanted Abramovich to replace Mourinho with Carlo Ancelotti, the coach of his former club AC Milan.

Despite complaints from Shevchenko's lawyers, the paper then went on to print allegations that he had complained about Mourinho and would have been happy to leave Chelsea on loan last year, London's High Court heard.

His lawyer, John Kelly, told the court that Shevchenko did not make any of the statements attributed to him in reports this year. The claims had damaged his reputation, upset him and his family and created embarrassment at his club, Kelly added.

The newspaper's owners, MGN Limited, accepted that the allegations were untrue, apologised and will pay undisclosed damages, as well as the player's costs.

Shevchenko, the 2004 European footballer of the year, joined Chelsea from Italian giants AC Milan in 2006 for 30 million pounds, a British record.

Shevchenko likely to miss Paris match

Ukraine striker Andriy Shevchenko is doubtful for next month's Euro 2008 qualifier against France, national coach Oleg Blokhin was quoted as saying on May 8, according to Reuters.

Shevchenko was due to have hernia surgery that day and will also miss the FA Cup final between Chelsea and Manchester United later this month.

"As national coach, I will of course regret Shevchenko's absence but if he needs an operation, we will have to deal with this in appropriate fashion," the Ukrainian soccer federation quoted Blokhin as saying on its Web site.

"Only the player and the doctors are in a position to assess the situation and decide on treatment and recovery."

Ukraine take on France in a Group B fixture in Paris on June 2. Both sides, along with Scotland, have 12 points.

Klitschko hit with $5 mln lawsuit

IBF heavyweight champion Wladimir Klitschko was hit with a US$5 million lawsuit May 3 over last year's canceled fight with Shannon Briggs at Madison Square Garden, reports the Associated Press. The suit, filed in New York State Supreme Court, alleges breach of contract, breach of covenant of good faith and fair dealing and fraudulent misrepresentation. Cedric Kushner, president of Gotham Boxing Inc., filed the lawsuit against Klitschko, promoter Shelly Finkel, Shelly Finkel Management, K2 Promotions and Sport Five. "Briggs was strung along for close to two months by the Klitschko camp," Kushner said in a statement. "I relied on Shelly's word and regrettably that was a mistake." The fight was scheduled for Nov. 11.

Ukraine takes last place

Sports

By Lucas Aykroyd

(IIHF)—Austria hammered Ukraine 8-4 to complete the Relegation Round on May 7 in Moscow. The result, however, turned out to be meaningless for the two teams, which will both be relegated due to Norway's win over Latvia.

Ukraine, which had played in the elite division since 1999, would need to win its Division I group in 2008 in order to get the right to participate in the 2009 IIHF World Championship in Switzerland. Austria was demoted on home ice in 2005, and now returns to Division I after spending just one tournament among the world's top 16 teams.

"Our game plan was to create turnovers in the neutral zone and generate more pressure toward the net," said Austrian Head Coach Jim Boni. "It's good to see that we're finally scoring some goals. We had a hard time doing that in this tournament."

"The beginning of the game was very important," said Ukrainian Head Coach Oleksandr Seukand. "But we gave Austria too much of a handicap with the early goals we gave up. We tried hard, but couldn't change the game."

Philipp Lukas, Thomas Koch, and Markus Peinter□led the Austrian attack with two goals apiece, and Dieter Kalt and Andre Lakos added singles. Vitali Lyutkevych, Oleksandr Bobkin, Dmytro Tsyrul and Roman Salnikov replied for Ukraine.

Austria's goalie, former NHLer Reinhard Divis, made□18 saves for the victorywhile his teammates fired a total of 34 shots at Vadym Seliverstov and Oleksandr Fedorov, who split duties back-and-forth between the pipes for Ukraine.

Ukraine ran into its usual host of penalty problems, as Austria's first□three goals were scored on the power play.

Sergii Klymentiev increased his tournament-leading PIM total to 44 minutes at 4:55 of the first when he was sent off for hooking, and the Austrians took advantage quickly. At 6:16, Thomas Koch converted a great cross-ice pass from the side boards, roofing the puck over a sliding Seliverstov to make it 1-0.

At 12:58, the Austrians made it 2-0 on a 5-on-3 man advantage, working the puck around smartly until Dieter Kalt fired home a one-timer from the faceoff circle that sneaked over Seliverstov's left pad.

Philipp Lukas scored on a virtually identical 5-on-3 play to□put his team up 3-0 at 14:24Actually, the Austrian forward did it twice. The first time, the puck came in and out of the net so quickly that a goal wasn't initially signalled, but when he repeated the procedure, it was clearly in the second time. The play was video-reviewed, and it was the first goal that was counted. Hence, the clock was rolled back 20 seconds, and the game continued.

With 1:14 left in the opening stanza, the Ukrainians cut the deficit to 3-1 on the power play when Vitali Lyutkevych stepped into a heavy slapshot that flew through the legs of Divis.

Ukrainian Head Coach Oleksandr Seukand tried to shift the momentum yet again at the start of the second period when he replaced Seliverstov with Fedorov. And briefly, it seemed to work. With Robert Lukas off for tripping, Ukraine made it 3-2 on the power play at 3:31 when Oleksandr Matviichuk centered the puck to Oleksandr Bobkin from the faceoff circle, and he quickly snapped the puck past Divis.

But the Austrians restored their two-goal lead just 45 seconds later when Thomas Koch finished off a sweet give-and-go play with Daniel Welser, kicking the puck up to his stick and flipping a backhander past Fedorov. And 32 seconds after that, it was 5-2 as Philipp Lukas jumped on a loose puck on the left side inside the Ukrainian blueline, moved in, and zinged a wrist shot over the goalie's glove.

At 7:58, Austria took a four-goal lead when Andre Lakos beat Fedorov with a high drive from the right point, glove side again. At 12:41, Seukand decided to put Seliverstov back in net, not that it would make much difference at this stage.

Ukraine cut the Austrian lead to 6-3 with 2:34 left in the second period when Dmytro Tsyrul stuffed home a rebound past the right pad of Divis.

Austria made it 7-3 at 2:59 of the third, as Marco Pewal set up Markus Peinter in front of the net off the rush for a shot that Seliverstov stopped—but the rebound bounced in off the skate of Lyutkevych. Peinter then got his second of the game on a slick forehand-backhand-forehand move on a shorthanded breakaway at 6:55. With 5:42 remaining, Ukraine cut the Austrian lead in half at 8-4 when Roman Salnikov skated down left wing and fired a shot from the faceoff circle past the glove of Divis.

Thomas Koch was chosen as Austria's Player of the Game, and Vadym Seliverstov was honored for Ukraine.

Latvia cruises past Ukraine 5-0

By John Sanful

(IIHF)—Three points. For Latvia and Ukraine, a win to start the Relegation Round would put either team in a strong position with two games remaining, and give them a chance to avoid being sent to Division I.

On May 4, the Latvians would claim the three points by defeating Ukraine 5-0. Martins Cipulis's first-period goal was all they would need as the Ukrainian offense could barely muster an effective chance on the evening.

Oleg Sorokins added two goals and an assist in one of his finest performances in tournament competition.

The experience of fighting to remain among the elite 16 nations is one the Latvians have not had in many years. The last time they faced the possibility of relegation was at the 2001 IIHF World Championship in Germany.

Determined to come out and establish the tempo, Latvia took the attack right to Ukraine.

At 8:58 Martins Cipulis, put Latvia on the board with a slapshot that whistled high over Ukrainian goaltender Vadym Seliverstov. It was his first goal of the tournament. Kaspar Daugavins, who's one of several exceptional young players for Latvia, assisted on the goal.

"They do not have a good team this year, and we played well," said Daugavins. "We deserved to win."

As usual, Ukraine could not stay out of the penalty box. In the first period they were called for four minor penalties. The last one hurt. Oleg Shafarenko was called for hooking at 17:22, and ten seconds into the power play, Latvia's Agris Saviels scored. Herbert Vasilijevs sent a pass to Guntis Galvins, who fired a low slapper on goal. Seliverstov made the stop, but could not control the rebound that was put home by Saviels to make it 2-0.

"We thought they would come out a little harder, but we got a couple of lucky bounces and got the early lead," said Saviels.

Latvia continued to press. Mikelis Redlihs made a nifty move to the net and hit the post on one chance.

Olegs Sorokins, who is Latvia's leading scorer, scored twice in the second period. On his first tally, the Sodertalje blueliner weaved his way into the Ukrainian zone and deftly maneuvered past four defenders before putting home his first of the tournament.

Sorokins scored his second on a backhander past the prone goaltender. At this point, the game was well in hand for the Latvians. This was largely to the lack of offense the Ukrainians displayed. Overall, they registered 15 shots on goal. To say the least, their offense could not create much of anything — most shots were kept comfortably on the perimeter.

Mikelis Redlihs made it 5-0 at the seven-minute mark of the third.

"We knew we would have to win this game if there was a chance to stay up in this pool," said Saviels. He added a word of caution: "The next few games in this round will be more physical and will not be that easy."

Henin beats Bondarenko to win J&S Cup

Justine Henin beat Alona Bondarenko of Ukraine 6-1, 6-3 May 7 to win the J&S Cup for the second time in three years in a final delayed a day because of rain, reports the Associated Press.

"To wait yesterday was pretty hard," Henin said. "It's a little bit sad we had to play a final on Monday morning — it's the first time in my career. But finally it was a good day today."

No. 1-ranked Henin's mix of powerful groundstrokes and a solid net play overwhelmed her 40th-ranked opponent.

"She plays well at the net, really everything gave me troubles," Bondarenko said. "I'm happy that I played with Justine, and I hope that next time I'll play better."

Henin broke serve in the opening game, then hit a forehand crosscourt winner at 5-1 to break again and win the first set. The Belgian dropped only three points on serve during the set, two on double-faults.

"I was jittery in the first set," Bondarenko said. "It's the first time I've played against Justine and I couldn't get my bearings in the first set, and only in the second did I start to do something."

PHOTO — EMBASSY OF UKRAINE

Minister Yatsenyuk and Ambassador Ostash with members of the Canada-Ukraine Chamber of Commerce.

Yatsenyuk meets with CUCC

Business

(Foreign Ministry of Ukraine)—May 8, during his official visit to Canada, Ukraine's Minister for Foreign Affair, Arseniy Yatsenyuk, met with Canadian business representatives and the Canada-Ukraine Chamber of Commerce in Toronto.

During the meeting, Yatsenyuk said that despite some political difficulties, the dynamic of economic development of Ukraine remains positive and invited Canadian businessmen and financiers to intensify activities in Ukraine.

He also stressed that Ukrainian foreign policy remains unchanged and accession to the WTO, along with the introduction of all the necessary changes to the legislation and in all the spheres of the national economy, belong to its main goals.

Minister Yatsenyuk paid significant attention to bilateral cooperation, in particular to the intensification and deepening of cooperation in trade and economic as well as investment spheres.

Yatsenyuk encouraged cooperation in such area as oil and gas, energy, the introduction of modern energy saving technologies, agriculture, andtransport, finances. He also underlined the openness of Ukraine to further strengthening of bilateral commercial relations and stressed on importance of constructive cooperation with business and financial circles in Canada.

During the meeting Yatsenyuk awarded the former chairman of the Working party on Ukraine's accession to the WTO, former MP Sergio Marchi, with the order "For merits, 1st degree" for his personal contribution and support for Ukraine's accession to the WTO.

Political compromise boosts stock market

By Stephen Bandera, *Kyiv Post Editor, May 8, 2007*

Ukraine's small but burgeoning stock market on May 4 responded favorably to news that the country's feuding president and premier struck a compromise deal agreeing to early elections.

What's more, the month-long political crisis did not have as negative an impact on the First Securities Trading System (known by its Ukrainian acronym as the PFTS) as analysts had initially forecast.

When rumors first surfaced that President Viktor Yushchenko was leaning toward dissolving a hostile parliament backing the governing coalition of Prime Minister Viktor Yanukovych, the market reacted negatively.

On the last Friday in March, rumors that parliament would be dissolved triggered a flurry of sell-offs that, in turn, caused the PFTS electronic trading system to crash for two hours. Then, a day after Yushchenko dissolved parliament, the PFTS recorded a loss of nearly 7 percent. It was the largest drop the market experienced in a single day since early in 2006.

But despite such knee-jerk reactions to escalating political volatility, prices of top Ukrainian stocks have grown sharply this year. In fact, the market has steadily surged ever since the Orange Revolution slapped the country onto the radar screens of investors.

"The market did not react negatively to Yushchenko's decree dismissing parliament. Rather, investors understood that parliament and the cabinet would disagree with the decree and a period of confrontation would follow," said Denis Matsuyev, deputy director of trading at Dragon Capital, a Kyiv-based investment bank.

After the political crisis began, some analysts warned that the market was entering a bearish period. Others went as far as to suggest that the PFTS' record breaking year-to-date gains would be wiped out. The PFTS index first crossed the 500-point barrier in January of this year and has grown by more than 350 points in the first four months of 2007.

Although trade volumes remained low throughout April, the PFTS actually experienced growth, albeit slight.

Dragon Capital's KP-Dragon Index, which measures the prices of the top 20 Ukrainian stocks, surged by 4.6 percent to a new all-time high on May 7, continuing its latest rally triggered by encouraging political news.

On May 8, the market slid a bit upon news that Ukraine's political leaders had taken longer than expected to decide on whether elections would be held in July or in the fall.

Traders said that although foreign investors continued to focus on profit-taking and assumed a wait-and-see stance, local investors picked up that slack and began buying stocks more actively.

"Initially we thought it would be worse," Matsuyev said. "It is a good sign that local investors have become more active players [compensating for a downturn in activity by foreign investors]. This was not the case even one year ago."

The news of the political compromise broke late afternoon Friday, May 4. The PFTS surged in the last half-hour of trading on that day.

After trading was complete, the PFTS index, which measures the activity of the most liquid Ukrainian stocks, had grown by more than 2 percent May 4 and reached a record high of 839 points, marking a 68 percent increase year-to-date.

On May 7, the PFTS jumped another 37 points to finish with over 877 for the day.

In the compromise deal, Ukraine's leaders agreed to hold early elections, but they are now at loggerheads over when to hold them. Sources said Yanukovych wants elections held late in the year, allowing time for 40 percent hikes on pensions and state salaries to kick in, winning some votes for his party. Yushchenko-allied parties want the vote held sooner.

"In the best-case scenario, the final election date may be known already this week. But even if the talks drag on, we do not expect any negative surprises and think the political rivals will remain committed to early elections as the way out of the current impasse," Matsuyev added.

Concorde Capital, a leading investment bank based in Kyiv, was also upbeat.

"There is likely to be some more horse trading before a date for new elections are called, but [the elections] will happen, as the Finance Ministry has already announced plans to allocate money for the new polls," reads a report issued by the investment bank.

Ukraine's $50 million stock market is on par with that of Hungary but lags far behind Russia, whose market capitalization stands at over $1 trillion.

Uranium exports to resume

(Ukrainian Journal)—Ukraine will resume exports of uranium after replenishing its strategic reserves with the metal that have been depleted over the past two years, a senior official at EnergoAtom, state nuclear power generator, said, May 15. Ukraine, which holds the world's No. 9 uranium ore deposits, suspended the exports in December 2006 after the government had created a conglomerate that had merged nuclear power generating and uranium producing assets.

Odesa-Brody deal signed

May 11 Poland and six former Soviet countries signed a deal to extend the Odesa-Brody pipeline and send energy supplies to Europe bypassing Russia.

The presidents of Poland, Azerbaijan, Georgia, Lithuania and Ukraine, and the Kazakh deputy energy minister, meeting in Krakow, Poland, signed a resolution declaring joint energy security planning as a major policy decision, RIA Novosti reports, as cited by UPI.

The Odesa-Brody pipeline, which sends mostly Russian oil to the Black Sea port, will extend to the port of Gdansk in Poland and the Plock refinery.

The countries will also join forces to send oil and gas from Central Asia to Central Europe via the Caucuses outside Russia.

Ukrainian President Viktor Yushchenko said the energy summit was not an effort to exclude any other countries but for mutual energy security.

Ilham Aliyev, the Azeri president, said it showed "the growing role of regional cooperation." "The energy summit was a great idea," said Georgian President Mikheil Saakashvili, "a promising start, a first step." The next regional energy summit will take place in Vilnius, Lithuania, in October.

Cabinet ups budget spending

(Ukrainian Journal)—The government on May 3 increased budget spending by 5 billion hryvnias to boost wages and pensions in a populist move suggesting the coalition may be preparing to accept early election.

The move, which may be apparently designed to boost popular support for coalition parties ahead of the June 24 vote, will be hard to implement as it puts significant pressure on the country's financial system.

The government increased the spending on wages in the state sector by 4.2 billion hryvnias. The money is supposed to go to increase wages in sectors like the healthcare and education, increasing the average wages by about 20% from June 1.

Overall, the average wage for about 3.5 million people employed in the state sectors are supposed to increase at least 40% between October and March, according to Labor and Social Policy Minister Mykhaylo Papiyev.

Meanwhile, First Deputy Prime Minister and Finance Minister Mykola Azarov sought to calm down fears that the move would boost inflation. He said the government will take extra steps that would limit the negative impact of the spending on the economy.

"This increase in social spending should not affect inflation," Azarov told a press conference. "When social spending grows proportionally to the economic growth the money supply is tied up with the supply of goods. We will increase the supply of goods."

Ukraine recorded inflation at 1.3% in the first quarter, compared with 2% that had been originally expected by the government in the period. The government also expects that Ukraine will have inflation at 7.5% in 2007.

Although the government decided to spend 127 million hryvnias on state voter register, it had again refused to allocate more than 320 million that are required to finance the early election.

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Ukrainian Canadian CEO wins "Top 40 Under 40" award

(UkrNews) — Edmonton-based Heritage Frozen Foods Ltd, producers of the famous CHEEMO Perogies, announced May 9 that it's CEO/President, Joseph Makowecki, has been selected to receive the prestigious honour of being one of Canada's "Top 40 Under 40™" leaders for 2007.

The following achievement criteria is considered when selecting recipients for this award:

- Vision and Leadership;
- Innovation and Achievement;
- Impact;

Joe Makowecki

- Community Involvement and Contribution;
- Growth / Development Strategy

Canada's Top 40 Under 40™ is a national program founded and managed by The Caldwell Partners to celebrate our leaders of today and tomorrow, and to honour Canadians who have reached a significant level of success but have not yet reached the age of 40.

Under Joseph Makowecki's leadership, Heritage Frozen Foods has been a significant leader in all of the criteria set forth by The Caldwell Partners selection committee. In addition to Makowecki's recent outstanding achievement, Heritage Frozen Foods is also proud to celebrate their 35th Anniversary in 2007.

Heritage Frozen Foods Ltd. is a family owned and operated frozen food manufacturing company that was founded in 1972 by the late Walter Makowecki.

Walter's aim in 1972 was to produce high quality machine made perogy at a reasonable cost to consumers.

He felt a family of five should be able to eat a good meal for under five dollars, and that a top quality, nutritious perogy could be a good, low-cost part of that meal

Walter's son Joe is now carrying on the family business as President & CEO.

Heritage Frozen Foods Ltd. now produces enough CHEEMO perogy every year to circle the world.

In addition, the company now manufactures delicious TriBites, 'tasty triangle snacks'. CHEEMO products are available across Canada and in some areas of the United States.

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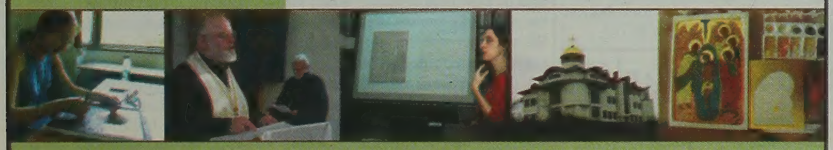

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